Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MONDAY MARCH 7, 2022
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 46

ROTA-BOUND U.S. AIR FORCE/STAFF SGT. DIVINE COX

U.S. Air Force airmen from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, load the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, assigned to Task Force Talon, equipment onto a C-17 Globemaster III during Operation Talon Lightning on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, March 4, 2022. Operation Talon Lightning is the Army-specific portion of the exercise. Task Force Talon deployed one THAAD launcher and supporting equipment and personnel as a THAAD Remote Launch package to Rota International Airport. They will establish a firing position, tactical communication, conduct a deployment readiness exercise in austere conditions, and demonstrate the new RL capability.

OPA tracks 36 unresolved audit, inspection recommendations. PAGE 2

Kilili: FEMA waives local match for COVID-19 costs through June 30. PAGE 3

2 DAYS AFTER HIKE, 20-CENT INCREASE

'This was shocking even for us'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI saw another increase in fuel prices over the weekend, just a little over two days after local oil companies raised their prices, bumping regular gas prices another notch closer to the $6 mark.

Last Friday afternoon, Mobil Oil Marianas increased its fuel prices by 20 cents,

See SHOCKING on Page 4

IPI funds in BOS to be seized to pay Red Coral

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has issued a writ of execution in favor of Red Coral Corp., allowing the seizure of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC funds deposited in the Bank of Saipan to satisfy a $163,500 judgment against the casino investor.

Magistrate judge Heather Kennedy informed IPI last Friday that the court has issued a writ of execution against it that would allow the U.S. Marshal Service to seize its money that is held at the Bank of Saipan to satisfy a $163,500 judgment granted in favor of Red Coral.

"A writ of execution was issued against you. It was issued

See IPI on Page 4

TRIP extended anew

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has extended again the Travel Investment Resumption Plan, or TRIP, program but has stopped giving out incentives as travelers are starting to show self-motivation in traveling to Saipan.

MVA acting managing director Judy Torres said last week that TRIP incentives like the Travel Bucks—where the

See TRIP on Page 4

COVID UPDATE

218 new cases; 10 hospitalized

A total of 218 additional COVID-19 cases have been reported in the last three days, bringing the CNMI's total to 10,074 cases since

See 218 on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:51pm, March 6, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Additional Dose Vaccinated:	57.3%
Days since last community transmission	2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,978
Fully Vaccinated:	37,163
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,343
Fully Vaccinated:	5,203
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,145
Additional Dose:	21,391

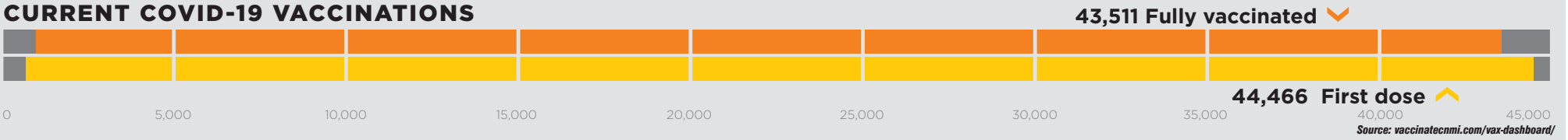
GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	45,072	470[1]	45,542
Recovered	41,191	20	41,211
Active	3,530	470	4,000
Deaths	331	0	331

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	9,856	218[2]	10,074
Recovered	9,104	377	9,481
Active	345	218	563
Deaths	30	0	30

[1]3/6=53; 3/5=54; 3/4=194; 3/3=169
[2]3/5=75; 3/4=77; 3/33=66

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

BUSINESS
European governments are moving against Russian oligarchs to pressure Vladimir Putin.
Page 12

WORLD
Russian troops seize the biggest nuclear power plant in Europe after a middle-of-the-night attack.
Page 13

LIFE & STYLE
Nikolaj Coster-Waldau put himself back in the snow for his latest adventure, "Against the Ice."
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Local

OPA tracks 36 unresolved audit, inspection recommendations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor OPA has tracked 36 unresolved audit and inspection recommendations as of Dec. 31, 2021, which includes two new recommendations issued to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and seven new recommendations issued to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

OPA audit manager Dora Deleon Guerrero said that OPA tracked 36 audit and inspection recommendations from June 30, 2021 to Dec. 31, 2021, and that most of the unresolved recommendations are with the Department of Finance at 20, followed by CHCC with eight. DLNR has five unresolved recommendations, while the Commonwealth Election Commission has three.

An unresolved recommendation is one where the client cannot take immediate action or OPA has not been informed by the agency or department of any action taken to address the recommendation.

For Finance, the unresolved recommendations are nine from an OPA audit of the Hotel Occupancy Tax, two from an audit of the CNMI Government Travel Policy, two from an audit on government vehicles, five from an audit of fuel contracts, and two from an audit of excise taxes.

For CHCC, the unresolved recommendations are seven from an audit of the CNMI Medical Referral Service Office, and one from the audit of patient revenue cycle.

With respect to DLNR, the unresolved recommendations include two from an audit of the Outer Cove Marina Facility and three from the audit of the Outer Cove Marina.

CEC has three unresolved recommendations from an inspection of ballot accountability.

Deleon Guerrero informed members of the Interagency Coordinating Advisory Group, Legislature, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, and Office of Management and Budget about OPA's report on CNMI agencies' implementation of audit recommendations.

On the nine recommendations on the audit of the Division of Revenue and Taxation Hotel Occupancy Tax issued Sept. 2, 2020, OPA said DRT did not provide a status update on its corrective actions as of Dec. 31, 2021.

OPA audit's first recommendation is to adopt regulations that interpret the HOT Law's use of the term accommodations and enable DRT's uniform enforcement of HOT.

On Feb. 24, 2021, DRT informed OPA that it is currently developing draft regulations for review and approval. DRT has determined that audit procedures will be for internal use only and not for publication. The proposed completion date was Sept. 30, 2021.

OPA's second recommendation was to adopt a procedures manual for auditing HOT. On Feb. 24, 2021, DRT informed OPA that programming development is ongoing and that a draft procedure manual will not be published. The proposed completion date was Sept. 30, 2021.

OPA's third recommendation was to conduct tax audits of HOT that involve examination of operator revenue records.

On Feb. 24, 2021, DRT has same response to the third and fourth recommendations. DRT informed OPA that programming development is ongoing and a draft procedure manual is in development for review and approval and for internal use only and therefore will not be published. The proposed completion date was Sept. 30, 2021.

OPA's fourth recommendation was to implement procedures using the automation capabilities of the tax system for initiating tax audits of HOT.

OPA's fifth recommendation was to implement procedures using the automation capabilities of the tax system to routinely identify non-filings or non-filers of HOT and Business Gross Revenue Tax.

On Feb. 24, 2021, DRT has the same response to the fifth to eighth recommendations. DRT informed OPA that program development and finalization of taxpayer guidance is ongoing. Proposed completion date was Sept. 30, 2021.

OPA's sixth recommendation was to implement procedures for staff to immediately notify and request operators to file all missing HOT and BGRT filings.

OPA's seventh recommendation was to formally require operators to report revenues that are subject to both HOT and BGRT under a specific business activity code(s) in the monthly BGRT.

See OPA on Page 4

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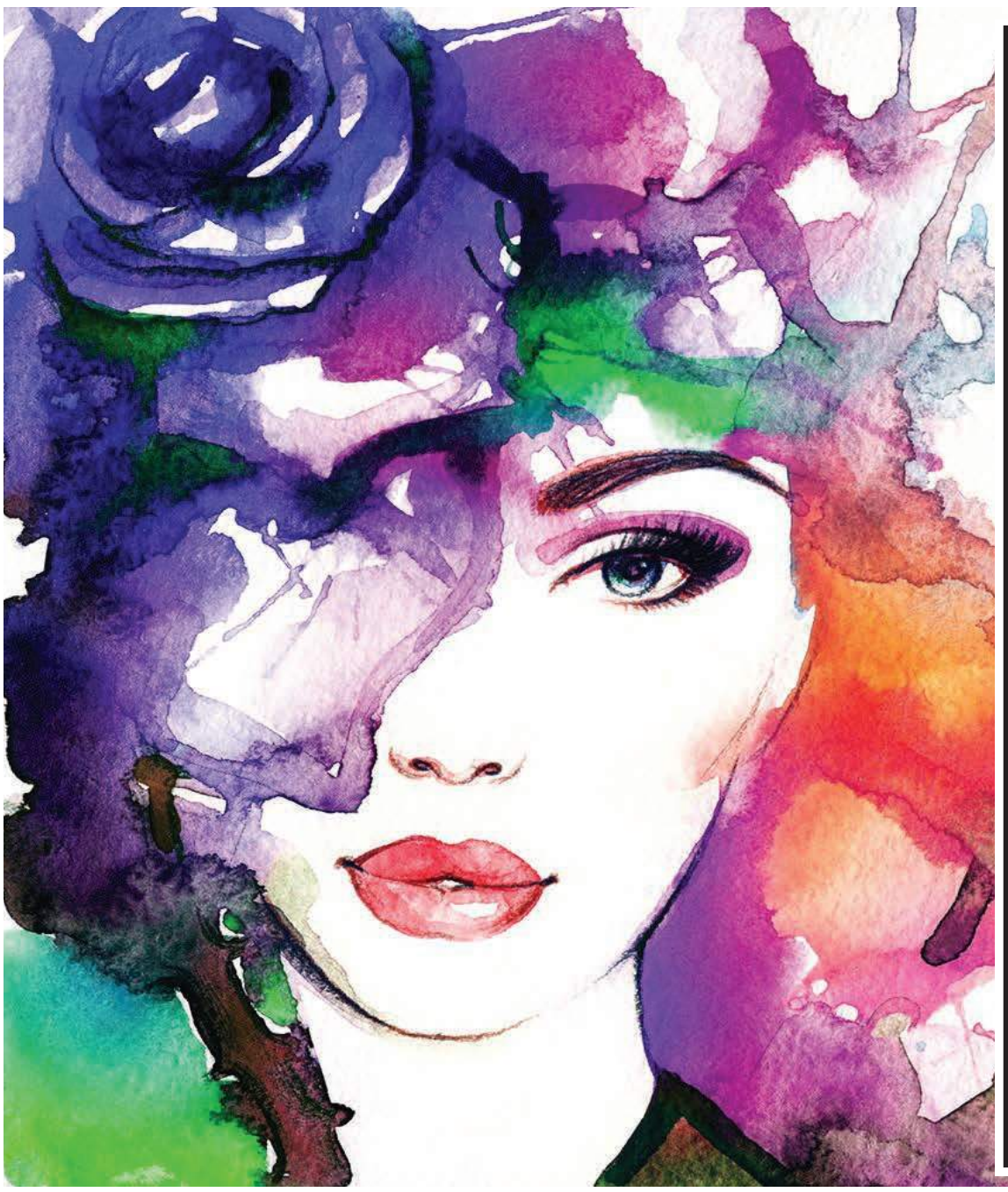

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Kilili: FEMA waives local match for COVID-19 costs through June 30

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (MP-Ind) said over the weekend that the CNMI government will not be required until June 30, 2022, to provide a local match for assistance received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for COVID-19 costs.

Sablan also disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter that the Small Business Administration has awarded the Northern Marianas College $659,990 this week to establish the Marianas' first-ever Lead Small Business Development Center on Saipan, along with centers on Rota and Tinian.

Sablan

On COVID costs, the delegate said FEMA's waiver saves up to $5.75 million on the Commonwealth's $23 million request for reimbursement that is currently under review.

He said FEMA administrator Deanne Criswell announced the decision to continue the local waiver for all territories and states in a call Tuesday with the National Governors Association.

Sablan said the CNMI has already been granted a waiver worth $10.3 million on $41,124,864 COVID-19 aid from FEMA.

Sablan said the money has paid for the safe opening and operating of schools, COVID-related medical care, and vaccination and testing efforts.

The delegate said this is the third time the Biden administration has saved the CNMI and other cash-strapped local governments significant amounts of money with the local match waiver.

Without this intervention from President Biden, the federal cost share would have shifted to 90% in July 2020, although the statutory minimum federal cost share is 75%.

As for the Lead Small Business Development Center, Sablan said business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs in the Marianas will get new support services though the Small Business Administration grant program he authorized with language in the National Defense Authorization Act in January 2021.

He said the development center at NMC was previously ineligible for Lead Center funding, as it was just a suboffice of Guam.

Sablan's legislation gave the CNMI its own Lead Center, where businesses will be able to receive free or low-cost services such as incubator workspaces and assistance with loan applications, business planning, operations, personnel administration, marketing, export assistance, sales, and other requirements for growth and success. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

» SBA awards NMC $659,990 to establish first-ever Lead Small Business Development Center on 3 islands

H-2B cap reached for second half of FY 2022

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has received enough petitions to meet the congressionally mandated H-2B cap for the second half of fiscal year 2022.

Feb. 25, 2022, was the final receipt date for new cap-subject H-2B worker petitions requesting an employment start date on or after April 1, 2022, and before Oct. 1, 2022. We will reject new cap-subject H-2B petitions received after Feb. 25, 2022, that request an employment start date on or after April 1, 2022, and before Oct. 1, 2022.

We continue to accept H-2B petitions that are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap. This includes petitions for:

Current H-2B workers in the United States who wish to extend their stay and, if applicable, change the terms of their employment or change their employers;

Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians and/or supervisors of fish roe processing; and

Workers performing labor or services in the CNMI and/or Guam (until Dec. 31, 2029).

U.S. businesses use the H-2B program to employ foreign workers for temporary nonagricultural jobs. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, Congress has set the H-2B cap at 66,000 per fiscal year, with 33,000 for workers who begin employment in the first half of the fiscal year (Oct. 1-March 31) and 33,000 for workers who begin employment in the second half of the fiscal year (April 1-Sept. 30), plus any unused numbers from the first half of the fiscal year, if any. Unused H-2B numbers from one fiscal year do not carry over into the next fiscal year. DHS, in consultation with the Department of Labor, will be considering whether to issue supplemental visas, in accordance with legal authority. ***(PR)***

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WHEN — MARCH 11, 2022 | 5:00PM TO 7:00PM

WHERE — MAYOR'S CONFERENCE HALL TATACHOG, ROTA

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For more information, please contact NMHC Rota Field Representative Arvin Ogo and Assistant Tina Atalig
at (670) 532-9410

Email: Arvin Ogo - ropnmhc@nmhcgov.net
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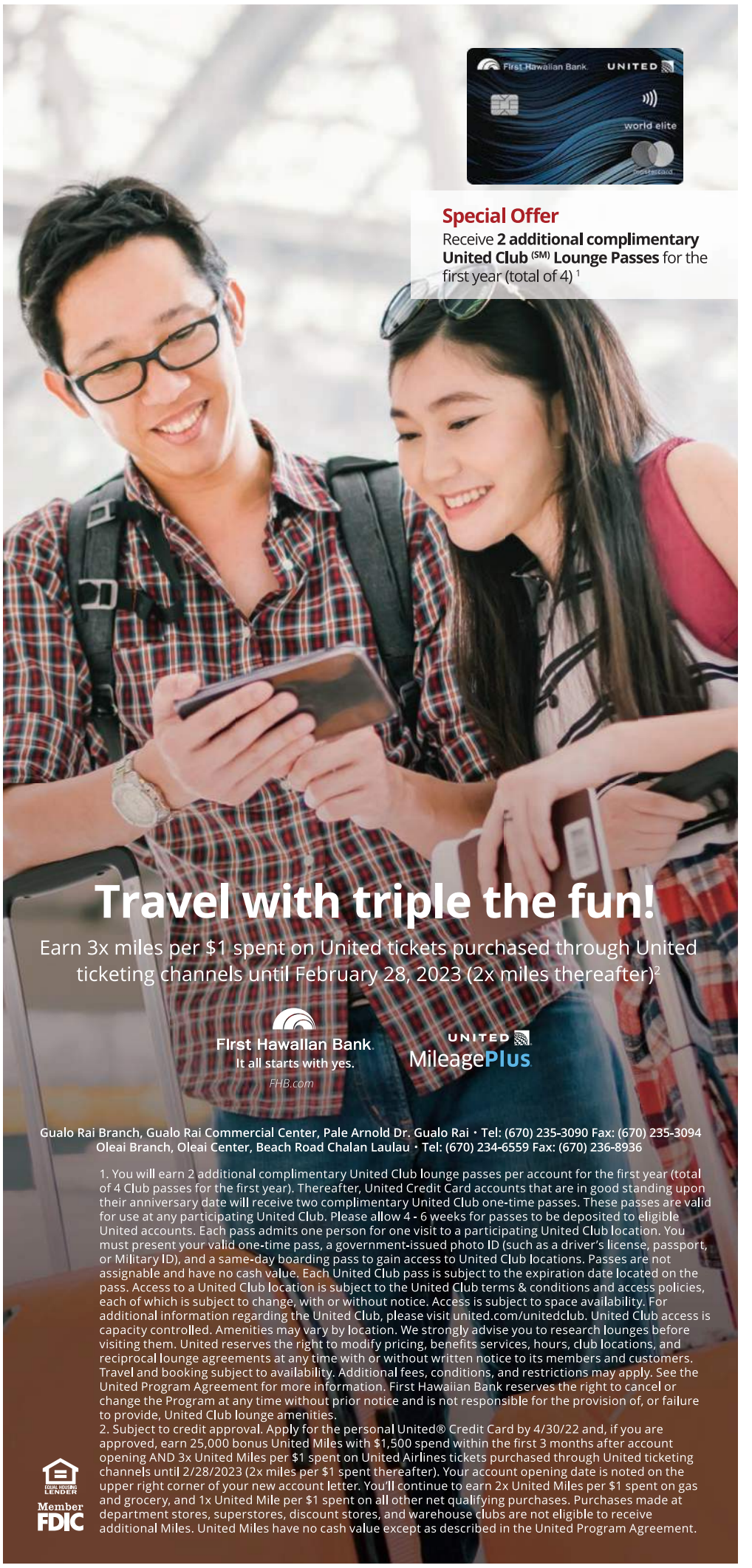
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1. You will earn 2 additional complimentary United Club lounge passes per account for the first year (total of 4 Club passes for the first year). Thereafter, United Credit Card accounts that are in good standing upon their anniversary date will receive two complimentary United Club one-time passes. These passes are valid for use at any participating United Club. Please allow 4 - 6 weeks for passes to be deposited to eligible United accounts. Each pass admits one person for one visit to a participating United Club location. You must present your valid one-time pass, a government-issued photo ID (such as a driver's license, passport, or Military ID), and a same-day boarding pass to gain access to United Club locations. Passes are not assignable and have no cash value. Each United Club pass is subject to the expiration date located on the pass. Access to a United Club location is subject to the United Club terms & conditions and access policies, each of which is subject to change, with or without notice. Access is subject to space availability. For additional information regarding the United Club, please visit united.com/unitedclub. United Club access is capacity controlled. Amenities may vary by location. We strongly advise you to research lounges before visiting them. United reserves the right to modify pricing, benefits services, hours, club locations, and reciprocal lounge agreements at any time with or without written notice to its members and customers. Travel and booking subject to availability. Additional fees, conditions, and restrictions may apply. See the United Program Agreement for more information. First Hawaiian Bank reserves the right to cancel or change the Program at any time without prior notice and is not responsible for the provision of, or failure to provide, United Club lounge amenities.
2. Subject to credit approval. Apply for the personal United® Credit Card by 4/30/22 and, if you are approved, earn 25,000 bonus United Miles with $1,500 spend within the first 3 months after account opening AND 3x United Miles per $1 spent on United Airlines tickets purchased through United ticketing channels until 2/28/2023 (2x miles per $1 spent thereafter). Your account opening date is noted on the upper right corner of your new account letter. You'll continue to earn 2x United Miles per $1 spent on gas and grocery, and 1x United Mile per $1 spent on all other net qualifying purchases. Purchases made at department stores, superstores, discount stores, and warehouse clubs are not eligible to receive additional Miles. United Miles have no cash value except as described in the United Program Agreement.
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC

Tom Yum Restaurant and Bar is latest ProaPerks partner

NMC
Tom Yum Restaurant and Bar is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion for ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks.

Tom Yum Restaurant and Bar is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 10% discount.

Tom Yum Restaurant and Bar serves Thai cuisine, and is located on Middle Road, Garapan, across the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Companies and other interested organizations that would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include NMC alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

TRIP

From Page 1

CNMI government gave tourists $500 each to be spent locally—have been stopped.

"Travel Bucks ceased in February 2022, as visitors from Korea are being increasingly self-motivated to travel. …A free PCR test for visitors returning to Korea is still being offered and we are looking at limited airline support based on load factor performance—or how many visitors airlines bring in," she said.

Torres explained that, as the number of visitors continue to increase, MVA gradually reduced the TRIP incentives.

"Since the program's inception in July 2021, we have seen a slow but gradual increase in the number of visitors under the program, so we have systematically been able to adjust or reduce incentives," she said.

Because of this, Torres said MVA deems that the TRIP program has been a success but the CNMI still has a long way to go in terms of bringing back tourism to pre-COVID-19 levels.

"At this point, given current COVID-19 conditions, we can say our plan to use TRIP to jumpstart the Marianas tourism economy has been a success. However, travel worldwide remains low, so we still have a long way to recovery, including the reboot of other source markets. The MVA continues to support and collaborate with our airlines, travel agents, and other stakeholders for a sustainable and safe recovery," she said.

Back in June 2021, the CNMI administration and the South Korean government signed a travel bubble agreement that essentially allowed groups of vaccinated travelers to enter the CNMI as a means to kickstart tourism and ultimately help the CNMI's tourism economy recover from the impact of COVID-19.

Pursuant to this agreement, the CNMI established the TRIP program to provide subsidies to airlines, hotels, travel agencies, and other related businesses to help jumpstart tourism.

MVA, in collaboration with the CNMI administration, initially planned for the TRIP program to remain in place for eight weeks, but due to its gradual success, MVA has decided to extend it multiple times.

As a result of the TRIP program, the CNMI has started to see thousands of tourists visiting the CNMI again and has even established a relationship with Air Busan, which has expressed an interest regularly providing air service to Saipan.

IPI

From Page 1

because there is an outstanding judgment against you. It may cause your property to be held or taken to pay the judgment," she said.

In the order granting the writ of execution, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona said she is granting Red Coral's second application for a writ of execution because there is still an outstanding balance that remains in the judgment against IPI, and the application meets the requirements of federal rules of civil procedure.

"Having considered the second application for writ of execution, the court finds that the application meets the requirements of the federal rules of civil procedure, which governs writs of execution in the CNMI. It is therefore ordered that the clerk issue the writ of execution to the U.S. Marshal for the seizure of IPI's money or currency held at the Bank of Saipan, as further identified in the application for the writ," Manglona said.

According to court documents, this writ of execution was the second application submitted by Red Coral. This second writ was specific to IPI's money held at Bank of Saipan.

The court previously denied Red Coral's first application for a writ of execution over IPI's personal property, including but not limited to, motor vehicles, computer hardware, furniture and equipment, gaming equipment, fixtures, indoor furnishings, appliances, and cash currency in or around the Imperial Pacific Resort and Casino in Garapan, because the judgment plus interest and costs was grossly less than the value of the property the plaintiff had sought to sell via a writ of execution.

The court had also denied the plaintiff's application for a writ over IPI's real property as writs of execution can only be levied against the personal property of the party.

The civil judgment granted in favor of Red Coral was entered back on Feb. 12, 2021, in the amount of $150,000, plus post-judgment interest at the rate of 9% per annum, and costs.

Red Coral applied for writs of execution because they allege that this entire amount—now at $163,500, inclusive of post-judgment interest to date—remains unsatisfied.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Red Coral, an apartment owner, sued IPI because the casino investor allegedly breached its lease agreement by failing to pay any rent for 20 apartment units, and destroying or taking furniture, fixtures, and other property belonging to the corporation when it vacated the premises.

SHOCKING

From Page 1

followed by Shell Marianas, which raised its prices early Saturday morning.

This comes after the two oil companies raised their gas prices just a couple of days ago, with Mobil first raising its prices by 10 cents, mirrored soon after by Shell.

With this latest increase, Mobil's Extra fuel went up from $ 5.56 a gallon to $5.76. Mobil also hiked its Supreme fuel from $6.01 to $6.21 a gallon. The local oil company also increase its diesel prices from $5.93 to $6.13 per gallon.

According to a gas attendant, in his years working for Mobil, he has never seen fuel prices rise so fast.

"This was shocking even for us. Usually you see prices increase like after weeks or months but in just two days? That was so unusual," he said.

He believes this trend will continue. "I believe this is only going to continue, given what's going on internationally. We just have to prepare to see prices possibly go past the $6 mark," he said.

Last Friday, a 57-year-old motorist could not contain his dismay after seeing prices go up again.

"This is absurd. Pretty soon a gallon of gas is going to cost an hour of your life if you work minimum wage. How is that? Our economy is barely recovered from COVID-19, how will most people pay for gas and power if prices continue to rise this fast?" he asked.

According to international media outlets, fuel wholesale prices have risen worldwide following the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

Russia is considered to be the largest natural gas exporter in the world with the country shipping approximately 196 billion cubic meters of gas per year.

218

From Page 1

March 26, 2020.

The latest report from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which was issued Saturday, said that 75 individuals were confirmed positive on March 4, 2022, with four of them identified on Tinian.

Before that, on Friday, CHCC said that 77 individuals were confirmed positive for COVID-19 on March 3, 2022. Thirteen cases were identified on Tinian and 12 on Rota.

CHCC reported late Thursday that 66 individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19. Of that number, 59 were identified on March 2, 2022, and seven were identified prior to March 2, 2022. Four were identified on Tinian and four on Rota.

The vaccination statuses of all 218 cases were pending verification.

CHCC also reported that, as of March 5, 2022, there were 10 individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19: one unvaccinated, eight vaccinated, and one partially vaccinated. One of the 10 is on a ventilator.

CHCC also clarified that some duplicates in the tally of positive cases have been deleted.

Of the total cases that have been identified in the CNMI, as of March 4, 2022, there have been 9,481 recoveries; 563 active cases; and 30 COVID-19-related deaths. A total of 9,388 of these cases were identified via community testing and 686 via travel testing.

A total of 98 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered on March 5, 2022; of the eligible population, 57.3% have already received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population and was recently corrected.

A total of 469 COVID-19 tests were conducted on March 4, 2022: 424 via Community-Based Testing; 44 at Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center; and one at the Rota Health Center. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

OPA

From Page 2

OPA's eighth recommendation was to implement the automation capabilities of the tax system to streamline the verification of revenues reported in HOT and BGRT forms.

OPA's last recommendation is to promptly review the rules and regulations and laws that impact DRT's enforcement of the HOT Law, and implement appropriate procedures for uniformly enforcing business license requirements and the HOT Law on all operations of short-term lodging, including operations conducted at private residences.

On Feb. 24, 2021, DRT's response is that development of enforcement procedures is ongoing and will be for internal use only. Proposed completion date was Sept. 30, 2021.

On audit of the government travel policy issued in August 2020, OPA's first recommendation is adopt a uniform travel policy by regulation and restrict the purchase of first class, business class, or any other premium class designation as required by law.

On June 30, 2021, Finance informed OPA that they are in the process of amending the language of the travel regulations to specifically prohibit the purchase of non-economy travel tickets, and to prevent any ambiguity. Proposed completion date was Sept. 30, 2021.

On Dec. 31, 2021, Finance informed OPA that it has not amended the travel regulations to prohibit first class travel. Finance informed OPA that they will update the travel regulations by Jan. 7, 2022.

OPA noted that it was unable to locate any publication of proposed amendments to the travel regulations within the *Commonwealth Register* as of Jan. 24, 2022.

OPA's second recommendation is that the Legislature review current travel laws and address any conflicts over official government travel.

On Nov. 16, 2021, the Senate president informed OPA that Senate Bill 22-16 was filed to address the matter and the bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law, and Federal Relations on Oct. 28, 2021. The legislation is pending.

OPA recognized the Senate for its effort at resolving the recommendation by introducing Senate Bill 22-65 in which section 3 aims to address the conflict between Public Law 15-86 and Public Law 20-87. However, OPA considers the recommendation unresolved until any conflicts within current trave law (s) are addressed through the Senate's enactment of law(s).

Saipan Lady Eagles Club swears in new officers, members

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new officers and members of the Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club are installed in a ceremony last Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022, at Saipan World Resort.

The Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club, a non-profit all-women socio-civic organization led by their president, Angelica Vina V. Lastimado, held their charter night and induction of new members and installation of chartered officers for 2022 last Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022, at Saipan World Resort.

The event was attended by CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Dianne Torres, governor's chief of staff Wil Castro, Saipan-Guam district governor eagle Arvin Ian Sales and second vice district governor Eagle Marcelo "Mar" Masilungan.

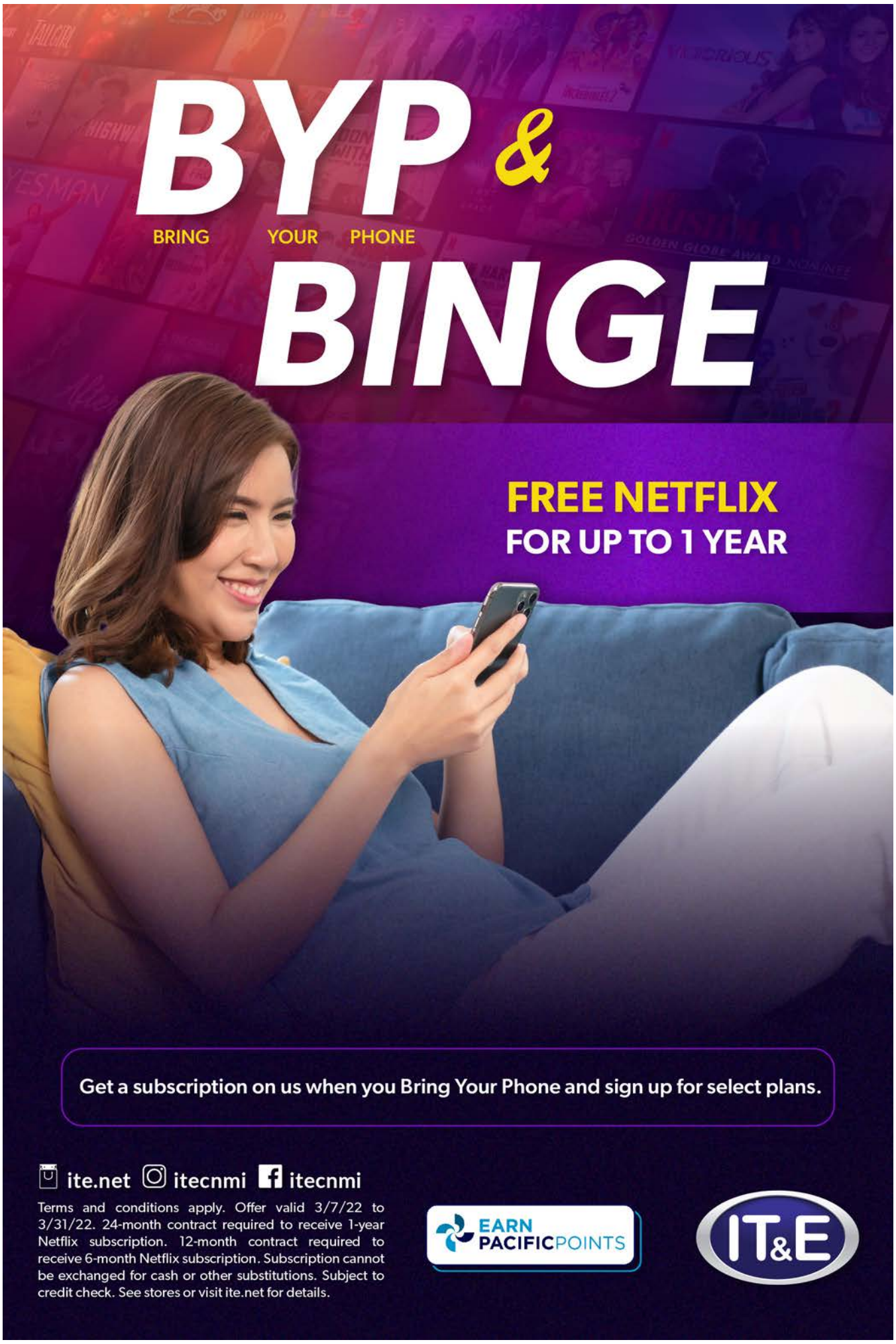
During the event, Torres and Castro were inducted as honorary members of the Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club.

Traditionally, the event is held in person with the presence of its national president and officers in the Philippines. But because of the pandemic, the event was held virtually.

In her message that night, Lastimado said, "…I am truly grateful for this opportunity, to represent our incredible organization…as your charter president. …[I] accept the appointment with pride and I will give my very best efforts to make you proud to have selected me. …I will devote my time and myself to the obligations and the duties of this post."

Aside from Lastimado, the new officers of the Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club are Marilyn Quebral (vice president), Mildred Pabilando (secretary), Raquel Floyd (assistant secretary), Maria Aileen Contreras (treasurer), Gemma Eugenio (assistant treasurer), Norlyn Cabrera (auditor), Melca Austria (press relation officer), Edilwisa Viana (press relation officer), Mary Jane Diestro (care chairperson), Rosalia Pitpit (tribunal/grievance officer), Maribel Casilla (protocol officer), Yolanda De Ramos (board of directors), Birhen Martinez (board of directors), Marilou Masilungan (board of directors), Luzviminda Relucio (club COMELEC), and Lorisa Mendoza (club COMELEC).

The other club members are Ethel Baskinas, Leilani Catungal, Maureen Mae Claveria, Rowena Coloma, Mary Grace Cruz, Mildred Ebuen, Mellany Regaton, Adela Ella Sanchez, Bernadeth Satur, and Ritchell Sublemente. ***(Saipan Tribune)***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EARN PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 090 D 01 containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is D&W Saipan, Inc. The lists of officers for D&W Saipan, Inc are Hong Sup Iee, Sung Moon Cho, President/Vice President and Sung Soo Lim, as Director/Corporate Secretary.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. Sung Soo Lim.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of sales and services of General Automotive Products, General Merchandise, food and fuel products.

The term of the public land lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, March 18, 2022 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannånå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ñiha para u ma'atkila metton na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattidå intirisao gi halum hinirât pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 090 D 01 ni kunsissisti kåsi 3,000 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi hålum Gualo Rai, iya Saipan. I kopian påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website i www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee sa i D&W Saipan, Inc. I listan nu ufisiåt siha para i D&W Saipan, Inc sa si Hong Sup Lee, Sung Moon Cho, Presidenti/Sigundu Presidenti, yan si Sung Soo Lim, komu Direktot/Sekritâriun i Corporate.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginen manegosiu ni as Siñot Sung Soo Lim.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha' na rason nu i binendi yan sitbisiun nu "General Automotive Products, General Merchandise", nengkanu' yan produktun i "fuel" siha.

I tema nu i maproponi na kontråtan atkilon sa' bentisingku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' såkkan gi duråntin teman kontråtan i` atkilon mapega gi put sientus nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i aplikåo na put sientus nu i "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum i regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Gualo Rai, giya Saipan.

vii. I Sekritâriun Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Matso 18, 2022 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL KKAPASAL PPWOMWOL ATKKILOONOOL

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re isiisiwow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong kkapas, "data", "views", ngáre angiingil eew ppwomwol atkkiloonol faluweer toulap.

i. Ppwomwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálló bwe Lot 090 D 01 e lo bwe 3,000 reel "square meters", elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól "website" me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Ppwomwol schóól atkkilóón nge D&W Saipan, Inc. List-al "officers" ngáli D&W Saipan, Inc nge Hong Sup Iee, Sung Moon Cho, bwe "President/Vice President" me Sung Soo Lim, bwe "Director/Corporate Secretary".

iii. Ppwomwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Mr. Sung Soo Lim.

iv. Schóól atkkilóónol ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl akkaméélól me angaangil "General Automotive Products", "General Merchandise" mwonggo me "fuel products".

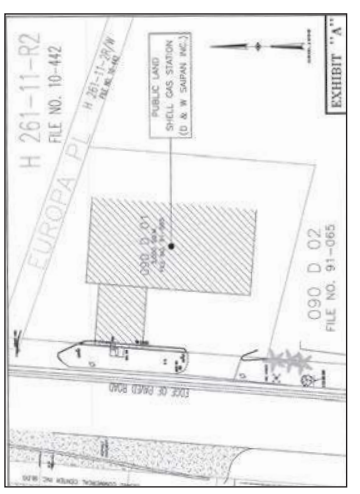
Kkapasal ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Ppwomwol atkkilóón ghal ráágh atol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw e bwal schuulong "application percentage of Business Gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel JoetenDandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor me De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre1st floor me PM Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappid yeel "online" me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh ppwomw ikka e lo bwe "alternative" ppwomwol ngáli atkkiloonol falúw iye e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rebwe bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, "views", angiingi ngáre "alternate proposals" sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil Maailap 18, 2022 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ikka e lo wóól Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



Amata cosponsors House resolution to apologize for US nuclear legacy in RMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) is an original cosponsor of legislation to formally apologize for the U.S. nuclear legacy in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The resolution was introduced on March 1, a key anniversary of the Cold War-era nuclear testing program with the most powerful detonation at Bikini Atoll on that date in 1954.

"The Republic of the Marshall Islands is a close friend to the United States, and dear to my heart," said Radewagen. "Former [Marshall Islands] president Amata Kabua was close to my father and was like an uncle to me. His mother, Dorothy, named my sister. I know that the U.S. can point to the settlement of known legal claims in 1986, but we have continued to learn and understand more of the human needs and harm to the Marshallese and their island homeland."

The bill was sponsored in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA), chair of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations. Original cosponsors are Radewagen, who is a member of the House Natural Resources Committee and the most senior Republican elected federal office holder of Asian Pacific heritage; Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus; and Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation.

Radewagen

A companion bill in the Senate is sponsored by Sems. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Ed Markey (D-MA).

The resolution affirms the relationships between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia, described collectively as the freely associated states. The United States is currently negotiating the extension of the international agreements with these allies that strengthen U.S. strategic options in the Pacific region.

The United States conducted 67 atmospheric nuclear weapons tests in the Marshall Islands from 1946 to 1958, while the U.S. was responsible for the welfare of the Marshallese people.

The United States is currently negotiating to extend its Compacts of Free Association with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as well as the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia. These agreements are key to U.S. operations in an area of the Pacific Ocean the size of the continental United States, an expanse from Hawaii to the Philippines. The U.S. provides economic assistance, and access to certain federal programs that apply to these partnerships.

Radewagen took part in an October 2021 hearing of the Natural Resources Committee regarding the Runit Dome, which contains the radioactive nuclear waste, and the U.S. legacy in the Marshall Islands. In November, she highlighted the need for urgency from the U.S. in negotiating a renewal of the Compact of Free Association. ***(PR)***

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division is preparing to conduct the CNMI 2022 Prevailing Wage Study (PWS) survey to begin on March 01, 2022 and notifies all businesses and employers in the CNMI to log on to the CSD Data Collection Portal and complete the PWS survey questionnaire.

All businesses and employers, with and with no employees, are urged to complete this survey before March 15, 2022.

Data Collection Portal Link:
http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/

CNMI Judiciary launches updated website

The NMI Judiciary launched last March 4, 2022, its newly designed website: www.nmijudiciary.gov.

This site is built and funded by the American Rescue Plan Act to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by providing vital court information, resources, forms, and calendars online. The move from a ".com" domain to ".gov" was made to provide the public with the additional assurance that the website is official and safe.

"Our modern Web design now features improved navigation capabilities with more information. We will soon have additional court forms and templates to assist self-represented litigants, making the courts more accessible to the public. We also have all our procurement notices published on the website to allow instant information access to vendors and the public," said director of courts Sonia A. Camacho.

The Judiciary periodically updates its website with the latest schedules and news to keep the community abreast on Judiciary matters. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo shows the homepage of the NMI Judiciary's newly designed website: www.nmijudiciary.gov.

Association for Radiation Survivors' meeting

The Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors will host its annual general membership meeting on Saturday, March 12, 2022, from 10am to 12pm at the first floor of Century Plaza in Tamuning beside McDonald's.

PARS is a 20-year-old non-profit organization that advocates for the inclusion of Guam as a downwinder area under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. The RECA Program would provide medical benefits and $150,000 for eligible "Downwinders of Guam," defined as those present in Guam from 1946 to 1962 and who have been diagnosed with one of the cancers associated with radiation exposure.

Lt. Bert Schreiber, retired U.S. Navy, noted in a sworn affidavit that Guam's radiation exposure during the nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands was "off the charts" on scales measuring radiation exposure. Information relative to exposure in Guam was classified until the 1990s. PARS president Robert N. Celestial discovered the unclassified documents and pursued the affidavit from Schreiber.

After a congressionally mandated investigation, the National Academies of Science concluded in a 2005 published report that Guam should be deemed qualified for RECA as "downwinders" radiation exposure.

PARS has advocated and worked tirelessly for the inclusion of Guam as downwinders and to receive compensation due to radiation exposure. Currently proposed RECA amendments will include new downwinder states such as Idaho, New Mexico, Guam, and others. Since the current RECA program will expire in July 2022, a sunset provision, there is a new provision in H.R. 5338 and S.2798 that will extend the program another 19 more years.

PARS invites all interested in learning more about PARS or becoming a member. Membership fees are $10 a person annually. ***(PR)***

CUC ADVISORIES

Power interruption tomorrow in Garapan Beach Road

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption on March 8, 2022, from 9am to 1pm, affecting Garapan Beach Road (Morae Kitchen & Bar and Chaioti Pl.).

This will allow CUC to replace a rotted dead-end wood primary power pole and to relocate transformers near the Morae Kitchen & Bar (former China House Restaurant) along Beach Road.

No water well or wastewater facility will be affected.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.comlCommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/). ***(PR)***

Power interruption tomorrow in Chalan Kanoa

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption tomorrow, March 8,2022, from 6am to 12pm in Chalan Kanoa Beach Road (from LF Market south toward I-Zone in Chalan Kanoa).

The first momentary outage is from 6am to 6:30am, affecting Chalan Kanoa Beach Rd. (Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa Dr., Konsolacion St., Brigida St., Carmen Av., Bernardo St., and Barbara Av.).

The second momentary outage is from 11:30am to 12pm, affecting Chalan Kanoa Beach Rd. (Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa Dr., Konsolacion St., Brigida St., Carmen Av., Bernardo St., Barbara Av., Surf Club Restaurant, Sandy Beach Homes, San Isidro Ave., Juan Nong St., Ilarnalap Ln., Alupyang Pl., Atuhong Pl. and I lopwood Middle School).

This will allow CUC to replace a 45-foot wooden primary pole with a concrete pole and to replace the air brake switch with a non-conduit type operated ABS along Beach Road fronting the Villagomez building in Chalan Kanoa.

No water well or wastewater facility will be affected.

Motorists are advised to proceed with caution when traveling by or through the project site or to take an alternative route as the right southbound lane Fronting the Villagomez Building will be closed during the project.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

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233-9448
233-9449
233-9450
Fax: (670) 234-9451

PUBLIC NOTICE

03/03/2022

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after March 18, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
Road and drainage improvement project for the Carolinas Heights in the island of Tinian.

The project is an unpaved road that serves residents, farmers, and tourists. It is also where the main water line was installed and connected to the one-million gallon water tank serving 2/3 of the population of Tinian. This road has been a constant rebuild, resurfacing and maintenance prone for every heavy rainfall in this area. The vehicles driven on this stretch of road after heavy rains sometimes become difficult to drive through due to large rocks or crevices created from the water run-off. The heavy silt and clay end up blocking the roadway or discharge to nearby farmlands. The CNMI Department of Public Works (DPW) proposes to replace the current road conditions to a paved road and with concrete swales on both sides of the road to convey and divert the water runoff to a nearby existing old quarry. This will prevent erosions to the area and protect the existing main water line from future storms.

Purpose:
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the requirements provided under 83 FR 40314 but firmly believes that the eligible activities under CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program are permissible and thereby asserts that the Department of Public Works (DPW) is an essential component that supports low-income to moderate income families who will live in reconstructed/rehabilitated/newly constructed homes in the area. Consequently, NMHC finds an immediate urgency to fund DPW's unmet public infrastructure needs; specifically, this road improvement project and for the ensuing reasons.

Location:
Carolinas Height Road, Lat. 14º 57' 45" N, Long. 145º 38' 44" E, Tinian, MP 96951

Total Project Cost:
$1,619,755.00- The project is funded entirely by the CDBG-DR program.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipanamined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by **March 18, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

US must tread carefully as it increases sanctions on Russia for Ukraine invasion

A little more than a week into Vladimir Putin's unprovoked and brutal invasion of Ukraine, Russia is isolated at the United Nations, hobbled by unprecedented economic sanctions and stalled in its conquest by the inspiring resistance of Ukrainians.

Yet Russia retains a substantial military advantage and is pressing on with its "special military operation," despite the cost in innocent human lives and the dislocation of a million refugees. On Thursday, Putin told French President Emmanuel Macron that Russia would achieve its goals in Ukraine "no matter what."

Ukraine's vulnerability has prompted calls—and not only from Ukrainians—for military intervention by the United States and its NATO allies to arrest the Russian onslaught. Andriy Yermak, a member of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's administration, wrote in the *New York Times* this week to plead for more assistance, including the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Ukraine.

To its credit, the Biden administration continues to ratchet up pressure on Russia while proposing more aid for Ukraine. President Joe Biden reportedly will ask Congress for $10 billion in new aid to Ukraine over and above the $1.4 billion already provided.

About 20 countries, including members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, are sending weapons into Ukraine to fight the Russian military.

On Thursday, Biden also announced new sanctions on more than a dozen Russian oligarchs and their families. Some members of Congress are also suggesting that the U.S. ban oil and gas imports from Russia, an idea the administration hasn't embraced but should consider.

It is possible that stronger sanctions and an infusion of military hardware will help the Ukrainians to continue their resistance. Faced with the prospect of a long and costly occupation of Ukraine, Putin might relent in his aggression, agree to a significant cease-fire and ultimately withdraw his forces. Stronger sanctions might also make it harder for Russia to menace other nations, including NATO members.

The proposal for a no-fly zone, however, is one that Biden and his advisors are right to reject. The reason is simple: Such a zone would be meaningful only if the U.S. and its allies were willing to enforce it by shooting down aircraft that violated it.

Targeting a Russian plane over Ukraine would involve direct hostilities between the U.S. and Russia, as would the deployment of American troops to assist in the defense of

See US on Next Page

Red Hill once again

RICK'S COLUMN
By RICK PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

As the fuel spill situation at Red Hill bulk storage facility on Oahu, Hawaii continues to evolve, our Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization now has the opportunity to better understand how the Pentagon and other Pacific Island populations interact in times of stress.

The U.S. Department of Justice sued the state of Hawaii because it contends that Hawaii does not have the authority to order the Pentagon to shut down the Red Hill facility. DOJ claims that the leakage of several thousand gallons of fuel is not enough to order a complete facility shutdown. DOJ believes that state leaders are asking for concessions that are not reasonable because they exceed the power that state leaders hold. This is very instructive for our Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization.

Hawaii state leaders contend that the Red Hill facility continues to be a key risk factor producing unacceptable environmental damage because jet fuel continues to leak and make its way into one of Oahu's major underground aquifers.

Tens of thousands of residents, both locals and military families, have become sick or forced to move out of their homes because of tainted drinking water. Hawaii state leaders argue that the Navy and the military simply are ignoring to do what is right.

Hawaii's leadership is taking the lead

One U.S. senator from Hawaii, Brian Schatz, is now taking the lead on this issue as a member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee. He has introduced a bill that would provide $100 million to help build a new bulk fuel facility for the military. In the U.S. House of Representatives, Ed Case has introduced language in the continuing resolution that would provide an additional $250 million to clean up the environmental damage caused by leaking jet fuel to Oahu's aquifer.

The success on these fronts is contingent on the complete congressional spending package making it through both chambers of Congress, which is then delivered to the White House for review and signature by President Biden.

Complicated fight for what seems to be a straightforward issue

Clean water is a human right. Local Hawaii residents and military families affected by dirty water run the risk of getting very sick. Hawaii officials want the military to install water treatment resources, repair leaking pipes, and drain all bulk fuel from Red Hill.

Attempts by Hawaii officials to obtain complete video reels of Red Hill facility fuel leaks remain unsuccessful, in part because cameras located inside the Red Hill facility are not working and not yet repaired.

All these developments point to increased acrimony, confusion and a general amplification of state and Pentagon disagreements.

The Navy has responded as mentioned above by taking its appeal to federal court. Hawaii state officials view their concerns as a state matter that must be adjudicated at the state court level, not at federal court.

Macarena, Navy style

It appears that much of the politics is coming not from state officials but from the Navy itself. First, the Navy balked and said it wouldn't shut down Red Hill. Next, the Navy said it would comply with state orders to clean up and shut down Red Hill. Now the Navy is throwing its legal weight around like an overweight dancer doing the Macarena, filing legal documents not only in Hawaii state court but in U.S. federal court as well.

What Guam and CNMI lawmakers can learn from Red Hill

One lesson that can be extrapolated from this Red Hill bulk fuel Navy debacle is that Pacific Islanders, villagers, and Pacific Islander legislative institutions do count. The ire of Hawaii lawmakers toward the Navy is at an all-time high because state lawmakers view the Navy's political dancing as disrespectful to Pacific Islanders for no good enough reason.

Another lesson that can be learned is the Navy is fallible; it is not perfect and it sure is not holding itself fully accountable for the huge environmental mess that it continually makes in the Hawaiian Islands.

Guam lawmakers would be well-served now if they took action to press the military for more complete answers on additional environmental contamination risks of Guam's sole aquifer from future and current military operations, ranging from burn pit activities above ground to firing range activities that will bring about more human health challenges.

Sitting back and remaining silent is not in the long-term interests of both villagers and the military because environmental stressors will continue to result in new kinds of elements being introduced into our island chain that are risks to the long-term health and well-being of our families and friends.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Problem child or a child with problems?

By SHARLEEN SABLAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"Some kids are just naughty." People say this either with a shrug of the shoulders and a little laugh or with jaws clenched and nostrils flaring.

Kids go through phases. Toddlers go through terrible twos. Big kids experience first crushes and heartbreaks. Teens and young adults battle with finding their identities while learning to be independent. We can all understand that these phases can take a toll on a kid.

Between the ups and downs, the whirlwind of emotions, and the chaos of it all, how can we tell whether we have a problem child or a child with problems? When do we stop thinking kids are just acting up and when do we start asking if they need help?

According to Mental Health America, "children's mental health problems are real, common, and treatable. Although one in five children has a diagnosable mental health problem, nearly two-thirds of them get little or no help."

The following signs may indicate the need for professional help:

- Decline in school performance
- Poor grades despite strong efforts
- Constant worry or anxiety

Repeated refusal to go to school or to take part in normal activities

- Hyperactivity or fidgeting
- Persistent nightmares
- Persistent disobedience or aggression
- Frequent temper tantrums
- Depression, sadness or irritability

(From: Mental Health America, https://www.mhanational.org/recognizing-mental-health-problems-children)

Whether a child is acting up because of a phase they're going through or reaching out for help for a deeper issue, remember to be patient and kind. We've all been there. They are, after all, just kids.

If you feel that you or someone you know has been discriminated against because of a mental illness, please contact the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness, or PAIMI, program at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. at 670-235-7273/4 or visit us on the web at www.nmpasi.org, www.facebook.com/NMPASI, and follow us on Instagram @nmpasi670.

Sharleen Sablan is a project specialist at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

'Do what is right for the people'

Editor's Note: Rep. Corina Magofña (D-Saipan) delivered the following remarks regarding the Senate Impeachment Rules during the public comment section of the Senate session Thursday, March 3, 2022.

By CORINA MAGOFÑA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Corina Magofña is a member of the House of Representatives of the 22nd Legislature, representing Precinct 3.

Thank you again, honorable members of the Senate, *yan buenas dias para todus hamyu ni man e-ekungok*. Since I am only allotted a specified amount of time, I will keep it short and simple. If the Senate body moves forward and adopts the Impeachment Rules as it is, then you'll be encroaching and overreaching into the House of Representatives' abilities to prosecute the case that's before us. Plain and simple.

Senators, the Senate on the federal side has respect for their counterparts in the House. They gave the House of Representatives the autonomy to decide for themselves who they choose for their managers and how many. Why is the CNMI choosing to do it differently?

President Hofschneider, you released a press release in which you stated that the House should not comment on your procedures. But, sir, we as House members had no choice but to comment on the rules because you are infringing on the House's right to choose its own managers, and unfairly hampering its ability to defend the case.

The Senate trial committee has neither the authority to adopt some variation of exclusionary rule of suppression nor is it within their legislative jurisdiction to pick, choose, or eliminate altogether prosecuting members of House managers.

Simply put, the U.S. and NMI constitutions unambiguously define the roles of both congressional houses as related to impeachment. The House, through their strenuous and meticulous collection of evidence, opens up the impeachment process for review and vote.

Of course, we all know that the executive being impeached does not haphazardly got the moniker all by way of proffered evidence. This distinction arose from the potency of evidence in addition to the approval votes of the House members.

To complete the cyclical constitutional command to its finality, Senate members are dictated, required, or rather mandated by both U.S. and NMI laws to initiate a proceeding and ultimately find conclusive decision most warranted.

Hence, it is not illogical to think that Senate rules for such proceeding may deter from establishing set rules and/or guidelines in order to run their trial as smooth as possible, fair and without any sort of hiccups."

But here's where the problem lies: Nobody here contests your ability to look for some sanity in the chaos of trial. Rather, it's how you go about establishing such rules, rules that went beyond the scope of your duties. The rules that have been presented for vote and passage were neither an inadvertent attempt to circumvent another legislative body's duties nor lack of foresight, intuition or knowledge in legal theory. Rather, it is a blatant attempt to demean, demoralize, and ridicule the constitutional rights of an entity—the people's House.

For that reason alone, a purposeful cause to encroach and meddle in affairs of others is unconstitutional and unclean! By the attempt of creating and eventually passing such one-sided and unconscionable precepts, you as senators are the ones without morals and ethics. You have sent a conscious message that establishes a means to an end; i.e. let us all "forget" this ever happened and continue with business as usual.

Such types of behavior are never, or rather, should never be rewarded. Senators, level out the playing field for all parties involved. Make the necessary amendments to the rules. Do what is right for people. Do what is fair. *Si yu'us ma'ase* in advance on behalf of the people of the CNMI.

Fleeing Kyiv with my family, our whole life in two suitcases

By KATERINA SERGATSKOVA
Los Angeles Times

Katerina Sergatskova is the editor in chief of Zaborona*, a Kyiv-based news media outlet. @KSergatskova*

LVIV, Ukraine — Every day for Ukrainians has become a nightmare. Troops in Russian helicopters land in neighborhoods, break into civilian houses, destroy buildings with tanks and fire their weapons at hospitals and orphanages. The stores are running out of bread and milk and the pharmacies are emptying of medicine. Putin calls it a special "denazification" and demilitarization operation and is not shy about saying he wants to take over all of Ukraine.

I work as a journalist in Kyiv. But on the fifth day of the war, I decided to leave the capital with my two young children for Lviv, a safer city in western Ukraine. We took a few things: a couple changes of clothes, a video camera, a bulletproof vest, a supply of diapers, a Lego Harry Potter set — which my older son loves — and a set of felt-tip pens that my younger son can't live without. We left everything else in our Kyiv apartment on the left bank of the city: Ukrainian artwork, photography books, a collection of comics, copies of my book about the Russians who fought for the Islamic State.

Our whole life fit into two suitcases. My husband and I have already gone through this: I was forced to leave Crimea after Russia annexed the peninsula in 2014, and my husband took his family out of the occupied Donbas region, where separatists seized control. Putin's war against Ukraine really began eight years ago, but back then the missiles landed only in one region. Now the war has spread all over the country.

Driving through Kyiv to get to the railway station this week, I watched how the city had changed. Lines at supermarkets, checkpoints made of bricks and car tires, volunteer Ukrainian soldiers with machine guns on the side of the road. Most of the bridges across the Dnieper River, connecting the left bank of the city to the right, were blocked by military equipment. Only two bridges were open, and there was a long traffic jam of cars with people scrambling to leave the city.

I've seen this before, when I worked as a war correspondent in the Donbas territories eight years ago. The face of the largest city in eastern Ukraine, Donetsk, changed dramatically then.

War fundamentally alters the face of cities; it is imprinted on everything that previously seemed normal. Even the sky seems to change its color and acquire a grayish, rotten hue. With each shot and each explosion, the city's colors are washed away more and more, mixing into a homogeneous dirty mass.

Passing though Kyiv, I saw track marks from tanks in yards and on roads. A shell destroyed a new building that served as a beautiful wedding hall. I saw a tram burned to the ground, and streets marked with funnels from fallen rockets. I noticed the stern faces of volunteer Ukrainian fighters and the worried faces of cyclists.

Kyiv's train station is crowded with people these days. Thousands of Ukrainians are trying to get out of the war zone to the West. A few days ago, before the invasion, I had complained to friends about how tired I was of the atomization of a society divided by political disputes, Facebook algorithms and various prejudices.

Yet at the station, everyone came together: students from India and migrant workers from Central Asia, the homeless and top managers of tech companies, representatives of ethnic minorities and religious fanatics — everyone got onto the same train. No more disputes. The country's 44 million residents now seem to be getting to know each other on these evacuation trains, and they are all united by full-scale war unleashed by the Russian president.

Those who are staying behind are risking their lives. Some spend days and nights in bomb shelters; some join local defense units; some organize logistics centers to help the military and refugees. The whole country has united into a single pulsating heart, which Russian shells can burst at any moment.

At the Lviv railway station exit, some fellow journalists met me late at night. They, too, had recently moved here from Kyiv to continue their work in relative safety. As I write this piece, a siren is roaring in Lviv. Russian missiles can reach this cozy business city on the border with Poland. Since the Russian bombing began last week, all Ukrainians have been living and hoping that we will survive and win. We are waiting for this endless nightmare to end.

US

From Page 8

Ukraine, another option Biden has ruled out, including in his State of the Union address Tuesday.

If it were a NATO member, Ukraine would benefit from Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which says that an armed attack on one alliance member will be considered an attack against all. Biden cited that distinction in his speech when he said: "Our forces are not going to Europe to fight in Ukraine but to defend our NATO allies in the event that Putin decides to keep moving west."

Yet it isn't just because of NATO that Biden is unwilling to deploy U.S. forces in Ukraine or approve a no-fly zone against Russia. A direct military confrontation between the two nuclear superpowers would be terribly, existentially dangerous, even if Putin hadn't announced recently that he was directing Russian nuclear forces to be placed on "special combat readiness."

It's understandable that Ukrainians would want the U.S. and its allies to do more to help repel the Russian invaders. But a confrontation between NATO and Russia could increase the possibility of a catastrophic conflict that would be global—and unimaginably deadly—in its consequences.

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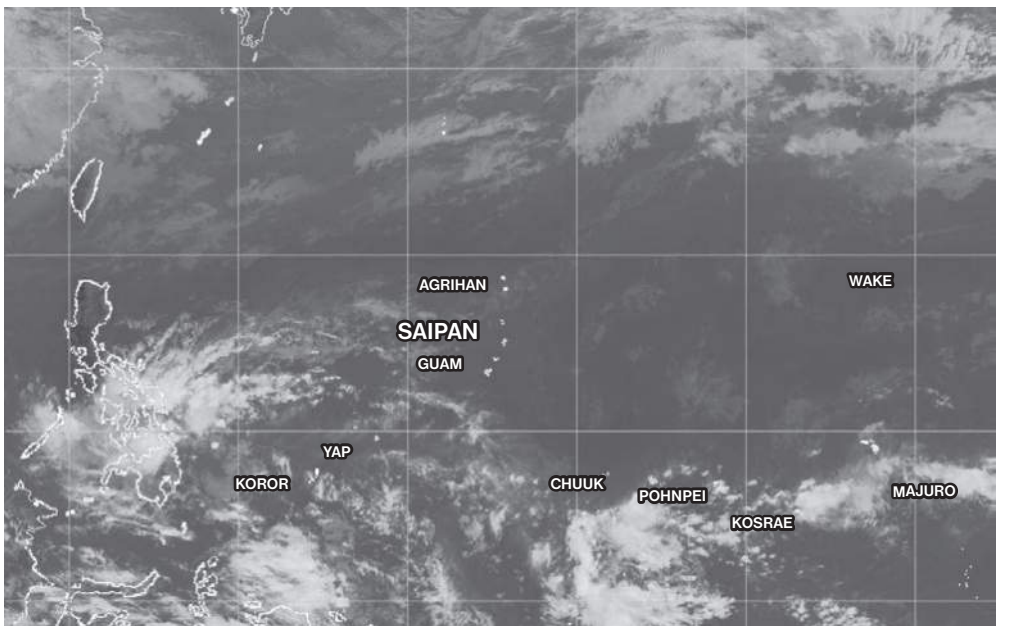
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

FRIDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
85º 77º	87º 76	86º 75º	86º 75º	85º 76º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:23 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate trade winds prevail in the Marianas, bringing isolated showers through the weekend. Ipan buoy indicates seas between 5 and 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	29 / 25 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Yap	AM Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29/ 26 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstormss	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:30 AM	18:25 PM
Tuesday	06:29 AM	18:25 PM
Wednesday	06:29 AM	18:26 PM
Thursday	06:28 AM	18:26 PM
Friday	06:27 AM	18:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	07:33	20:45 PM	-
Tuesday	08:25	21:43 PM	-
Wednesday	09:21	22:42 PM	-
Tuesday	10:20	23:38 PM	-
Friday	11:20	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	24 / 17 °F
Beijing	Sunny	1 / -1°F
Hong Kong	AM Light Rain	23 / 18 °F
Honolulu	PM Thunderstorms	26 / 19 °F
London	AM Clouds/PM Sun	7 / 1°F
Los Angeles	Sunny	21 / 7 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	33 / 24 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	25 / 16 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	27 / 24 °F
New York	PM Showers	22 / 6 °F
Osaka	Cloudy	10 / 1 °F
Paris	Sunny	9 / 0 °F
Busan	AM Clouds/PM Sun	12 / 3 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	14 / 1 °F
Salem	PM Thunderstorms	27 / 13 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	18 / 7 °F
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	8 / -1 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	13 / 4 °F
Washington, DC	PM Rain/Wind	21 / 7 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
04:41 AM	Low Tide	0.55
10:28 AM	High Tide	1.70
5:22 PM	Low Tide	0.27
11:32 PM	High Tide	1.47

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 3, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA116	8:00am	8:46am	7
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2, 4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9307	9:00AM	Q2:30PM	4, 7
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Ferry, shuttle available for Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

A limited number of ferry seats are still available between Tinian and Saipan and a shuttle to the festival grounds will be provided for the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on March 11-13, 2022.

The festival, affectionately known as "Pika Fest" among local residents ("pika" means "spicy"), pays homage to Tinian's small but potent "donne sali" hot pepper and includes a full weekend of activities including food sales, live entertainment, competitions, arts and crafts sales, and more.

A shuttle between Tinian International Airport and the festival grounds will be available by calling (670) 286-9367. Shuttle service will also be provided between the Port of Tinian and the festival grounds for arriving ferry schedule.

Ferry seats are still available on: March 12, departing Saipan at 8am and 4pm and departing Tinian at 12pm and 8pm; March 13, departing Saipan at 8am and departing Tinian at 6pm; and March 14, departing Saipan at 8am and departing Tinian at 5pm. The Super Emerald ferry will depart from the Commonwealth Ports Authority dock in Lower Base, passengers and must check in one hour before departure. Thirty-five passengers are allowed per ferry, and household pets are also allowed.

Ferry round trip cost is $15 for ages 3-11, $30 for ages 12 and older, and free for children. ***(PR)***

Happy Yap Day!

COLONIA, Yap—March 1 was Yap Day, a legal holiday held annually as a celebration of traditional Yapese culture.

Famous within the Federated States of Micronesia for its unique quality of both emphasizing the best of modern society, including democracy and democratic principles, and the best of traditional society, including respect for others and the implementation of a fourth branch of government (traditional leadership), Yap Day allows the people of the State of Yap to strengthen and promote their individual and communal identities as Micronesians.

Prior to Yap Day proper, FSM President David W. Panuelo visited the municipality of Weloy where he was invited to attend the opening of a new traditional house. The Chief of Weloy, James Manguon, and the people of Weloy, gifted the president a stone money as well as a shell money. The community placed the stone money, on behalf of the president, outside of the traditional house, and the president signed the shell money. Both the stone and shell monies will be located in Yap, and will serve as a remembrance of the president of the FSM—not Panuelo himself and exclusively, but all FSM presidents, past, present, and future.

While some Western financiers are quick to ascribe Yapese stone money as the first cryptocurrency, the FSM national government rejects this claim on the premise that Yapese stone money is not merely a means of advancing one's real and/or perceived wealth but is rather a demonstration of Yap's unique Micronesian culture.

In addition to the placing and signing of the stone and shell monies, Panuelo joined with first lady Patricia Edwin, Australian Ambassador to the FSM Jo Cowley, and Benjamin Dille, deputy chief of mission of the United States to the FSM, in planting coconut trees outside the traditional house in Weloy.

In his remarks, Panuelo solicited the support of Yap state to advocate to the FSM Congress that it would be culturally beneficial to the whole of the FSM for an exact replica of the traditional house to be built somewhere in the Palikir Capitol Complex. ***(PR)***

The traditional house in Weloy. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Federated States of Micronesia President David W. Panuelo is given the shell money and rope by the Chief of Weloy, James Manguon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First Lady Patricia Edwin and FSM President David Panuelo pose with the stone money.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds
02/23/2022

Final Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

This is to give notice that **Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)** has determined that the following proposed **Beach Road Improvement Phase III & IV project** under the **Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program grant number B-19-DV-69-0001 and B-19-DV-69-002** is located in the **100-year floodplain**. NMHC has identified and evaluated practicable alternatives to the proposed action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the **floodplain** from the proposed action, as required by **Executive Order 11988**, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project(s) is located on **Route 33, Beach Road, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.**

The public may view the full description of the project and provide comments by visiting the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the public notice/announcement tab and selecting the Environmental Review Records or you may visit the NMHC CDBG-DR website at https://www.cnmicdbgdr.com.

Written comments must be received by NMHC on or before March 14, 2022. A minimum 15 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 16th day after the publication. Written comments may also be submitted through the following methods: email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp; or facsimile to 1-670-234-9021; or hand deliver to the NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan. Attention CDBG-DR Project Division.

/s/
Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS RFQ22-GOV-42200082

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM April 6, 2022

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION FOR PROVISIONS OF ARCHITECT/ ENGINEERING SERVICES 702 CIP PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from **Architects and Engineers to provide Project Management Services for the Capital Improvement Projects funded under the 702 Covenant Funding.**

Interested parties may pick up the applicable Scope of Work (SOW) and Submittal Requirements at the Office of Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, beginning **Monday, March 7, 2022** during regular working hours. Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Project Managers include Architects, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical Engineers, Geotechnical and Environmental Consultant. Selected Project Managers will be retained of a one-year contract with an option to renew for an additional year at the discretion of the Commonwealth. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of personnel or sub-consultants – 30%
2. Past Experience and Performance as a Project Manager – 40%
3. Project Methodology – 30%
4. Fee Proposal – 0%

Questions regarding this RFQ must be in writing and submitted via email to Ms. Jessel Mesa at jesselmesa.cip@gmail.com no later than 4:00 p.m. (ChST) **Monday, March 28, 2022**

Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting the Notice of Intent to Propose Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) **Wednesday, April 6, 2022** and may be sent via email to bidintent@dof.gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Francisco C Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors
OPERATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors informs the general public that the Operations Standing Committee will meet on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., and Friday, March 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Tinian Mayor's Conference Room, Tinian..

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Introduction
      1. CUC Board of Directors
      2. CUC Management
      3. Tinian Leadership Team
II. OLD BUSINESS
   A. CUC/Telesource Contract
   B. Status: Power Projects
      1. Replacement
      2. Existing Utility Relocations – Department of Defense Funded Projects
         a. Phase 1 – Power
         b. West San Jose Power Lines
         c. Underground Power Lines
   C. Status of Water Projects
      1. Water Restoration and Mitigation Updates
      2. Carolinas Heights Green Water Tank Repair
      3. Existing Utility Relocation – Department of Defense Funded Projects
         a. Phase I – Water: Road G
         b. Phase II – Water: Road A-F and Route 205/206
      4. West San Jose Water Lines
         a. Phase 2 ($1.3M) and Phase 3 ($1.14M) -2020
            1. Construction Cost U.S. EPA Funded
      5. System Improvement Recommendation s
      6. Feasibility Study for Sewage Treatment Plan
      7. Miscellaneous
III. New Business
   A. TOUR
      1. CUC Facilities/Telesource Power Plant
      2. Maui Well #2
      3. Carolinas Heights Water Tank
IV. Public Comments
V. Executive Session
VI. Announcements
VII. Adjournment /Recess

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items maybe added to the above listing by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

Business

Russia cracks down on dissenting media, blocks Facebook

DUSSELDORF, Germany (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday intensified a crackdown on media outlets and individuals who fail to hew to the Kremlin line on Russia's war in Ukraine, blocking Facebook and Twitter and signing into law a bill that criminalizes the intentional spreading of what Moscow deems to be "fake" reports.

The moves against the social media giants follow blocks imposed on the BBC, the U.S. government-funded Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle and Latvia-based website Meduza. The government's sweeping action against the foreign outlets that publish news in Russian seeks to establish even tighter controls over what information the domestic audience sees about the invasion of Ukraine.

The state communications watchdog Roskomnadzor said it cut access to Twitter and Facebook in line with a decision by the prosecutor general's office. The watchdog has previously accused Twitter of failing to delete the content banned by Russian authorities and slowed down access to it.

Twitter said in a statement Friday afternoon that while the company is "aware of reports" that its platform is blocked in Russia, it has not been able to confirm whether this is the case.

The bill, quickly rubber-stamped by both houses of the Kremlin-controlled parliament and signed by Putin, imposes prison sentences of up to 15 years for those spreading information that goes against the Russian government's narrative on the war.

The question regarding Russia is no longer "what we do to stop disinformation," former U.S. ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul said on Friday. "The question has to be how do we promote information inside Russia -- and I don't have the answer."

Multiple outlets said they would pause their work inside Russia to evaluate the situation. Among them, CNN and CBS News said they would stop broadcasting in Russia while Bloomberg and the BBC said they would temporarily suspend the work of their journalists there.

Russian authorities have repeatedly and falsely decried reports of Russian military setbacks or civilian deaths in Ukraine as "fake" news. State media outlets refer to Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a "special military operation" rather than a war or an invasion.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Alliance Ent. Inc. (the corporation) intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:

1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: P.O. Box 501803, Saipan MP 96950.
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

Alliance Ent. Inc
P.O. Box 501803, Saipan MP 96950
670-588-2996

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ITB22-CHCC/HDP-012
HEALTH DISPARITIES PROGRAM (HDP)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 4TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00 AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV. MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMOWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATIONS.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Early Intervention Program

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

Pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, & GEPA, the Public School System Early Intervention Program is required to provide at least 60 days prior to submission of grant application for funds, a 60 day circulation notice with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period and provide an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of infants, toddlers and youth with disabilities, to provide comments.

DUE TO THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON MAY 13, 2022

60-Day Public Circulation Period: March 7, 2022 to May 5,2022
30-Day Public Comment Period: March 14, 2022 to April 12, 2022

Hard copies of the Grant Applications are available from Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm at the following location:

Early Intervention Program Office in Garapan (670) 664-4841

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-4846, hand delivered to the Early Intervention Program Office located in Garapan or phone in your comments at (670) 664-4841.

Electronic copies of the Grant Application can be accessed https://www.cnmipss.org/early-intervention-program

For more information, please contact Robin L. Palacios, Director, Early Intervention Program at (670) 664-4841.

Italy seizes $156 million in oligarch wealth, pressing Putin

AP

A view of the yacht "Lady M", owned by Russian oligarch Alexei Mordashov, at it is docked at Imperia's harbor, Italy, Saturday, March 5, 2022.

MILAN (AP)—European governments are moving against Russian oligarchs to pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin to back down on his war in Ukraine, seizing superyachts and other luxury properties from billionaires on sanctions lists.

Italy since Friday has seized 143 million euros ($156 million) in luxury yachts and villas in some of its most picturesque destinations, including Sardinia, the Ligurian coast and Lake Como.

"We must be able to stop Putin's attack, bringing him to the table, and he won't go with niceties," Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio told Italian state TV on Friday, announcing Italy's plans to begin the seizures of property belonging to oligarchs close to Putin.

Italian financial police moved quickly seizing the superyacht "Lena" belonging to Gennady Timchenko, an oligarch close to Putin, in the port of San Remo; the 65-meter (215-foot) "Lady M" owned by Alexei Mordashov in nearby Imperia, featuring six suites and estimated to be worth 65 million euros; as well as villas in Tuscany and Como, according to government officials.

The villa of Russian-Uzbek business magnate Alisher Usmanov also was seized along the tony Emerald Coast in northern Sardinia, long the playground of the world's wealthiest.

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES F0197
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7859 | Fax. (670) 234-5749
E mail: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com

Attorney for Petitioner David Taitano Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANTONIO MUNA CAMACHO, Decedent. : Civil Action No. 22-0017 : NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS : DATE: MARCH 17, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M. JUDGE: CAMACHO

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ANTONIO MUNA CAMACHO HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that David Taitano Camacho has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Antonio Muna Camacho, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plate Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address hereinabove indicated.

Respectfully submitted this 11th day of February 2022.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT/SEPUTY CLERK

Giovanni Siruelo
P.O. Box 504582
Saipan, MP 96950
671-797-9420

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition to Appoint General Guardianship for: C.M.S. Minor Child, -vs- Giovanni M. Siruelo Petitioner : FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0039

AMENDED
ORDER SHORTENING TIME
AND NOTICE OF HEARING

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, it is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner's petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on March 28, 2022 at 1:30p.m. in Courtroom 217A.

Dated this 25th day of February, 2022.

/s/ Judge

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mastercard, Visa suspend operations in Russia after invasion

NEW YORK (AP)—Mastercard and Visa are suspending their operations in Russia, the companies said Saturday, in the latest blow to the country's financial system after its invasion of Ukraine. Mastercard said cards issued by Russian banks will no longer be supported by its network and any Mastercard issued outside the country will not work at Russian stores or ATMs. "We don't take this decision lightly," Mastercard said in a statement, adding that it made the move after discussions with customers, partners and governments. Visa said it's working with clients and partners in Russia to cease all Visa transactions over the coming days.

Anti-money-laundering body puts UAE on global 'gray' list

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A global body focused on fighting money laundering has placed the United Arab Emirates on its so-called "gray list" over concerns that the global trade hub isn't doing enough to stop criminals and militants from hiding wealth there. The decision late Friday night by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force puts the UAE, home to Dubai and oil-rich Abu Dhabi, on a list of 23 countries including fellow Mideast nations Jordan, Syria and Yemen. While not expected to dent business in the Emirates, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula home to a multitude of economic free zones and real estate ventures, it could strike at the country's carefully managed business-friendly image. Ratings agencies and other financial institutions also consider such a listing as a risk, which can affect interest rates for loans.

Nation

Official: 6 dead as tornado roars through central Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Six people were killed Saturday when a tornado swept through central Iowa, damaging buildings and knocking down trees and power lines, authorities said.

Emergency management officials in Madison County said four were injured in addition to those killed when the tornado touched down in the area southwest of Des Moines at about 4:30 p.m. Among those killed were children and adults.

Madison County Emergency Management Director Diogenes Ayala said 25 to 30 homes were badly damaged by the tornado.

"This is the worst anyone has seen in a very long time," he said.

Officials didn't identify those killed but said they were not all in the same location.

Wendy Burkett told the Des Moines Register she and two of her three daughters were in their house Saturday afternoon when her husband, Tony, called her from a nearby shed where he was working and alerted her about a tornado warning.

Burkett said she came outside and joined him in front of the house, looking down their driveway toward the southwest. "And then we saw it. The tornado," she said. "There was debris flying around and it was getting louder and louder."

They hurried with their daughters to their basement as the tornado roared by within seconds. As they clung to each other, a window shattered outwards and water began spewing from the pipes, she said.

But within about a minute, the tornado passed by, and while the family was unhurt, their home was in ruins amid debris all around, even in the trees.

The National Weather Service in Des Moines tweeted later Saturday that initial photos and videos from the damage around the community of Winterset suggested it was at least an EF-3 tornado, capable of causing severe damage, on the Enhanced Fujita scale. It said weather service teams would investigate the damage Sunday and further assess a potential rating.

Thunderstorms that spawned tornadoes moved through much of Iowa from the afternoon until Saturday night with storms also causing damage in the Des Moines suburb of Norwalk, areas just east of Des Moines and other areas of eastern Iowa.

Officials reported a number of homes were damaged, roads were blocked by downed lines and tree branches were shredded by the strong winds. Photos tweeted on social media showed downed trees, debris and damaged roofs and vehicles. At one point, power outages affected about 10,000 in the Des Moines area.

WILDFIRE IN FLORIDA PANHANDLE AP

Hector Rivera and Wandi Blanco put water on hotspots behind their home in Panama City, Fla., Saturday, March 5, 2022, following a wildfire that started Friday. The fire destroyed two homes next to them and melted the siding off of their home.

ACROSS THE NATION

Stolen box of human heads investigated by Denver police

DENVER (AP)—Denver police are investigating the theft of a box containing human heads from a parked freight company truck, officials said Saturday. The box was being transported for medical research purposes, police said in an email. Someone broke into the truck while it was parked between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, Denver television station KDVR reported. The blue-and-white box was marked with a label that said "Exempt Human Specimen," police said. A dolly was also stolen from the truck. No arrests had been made as of Saturday and investigators asked anyone who finds the box to call police.

Woman arrested in crash that killed 2, including officer

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico woman was arrested after authorities say she caused a crash that killed an officer and retired firefighter and then lied about having been kidnapped. Jeannine Jaramillo, 46, faces charges including two counts of first-degree murder, authorities said in a news conference Saturday. After a pursuit, the Wednesday crash on Interstate 25 near Santa Fe killed Officer Robert Duran, 43, and Frank Lovato, 62. Lovato was a retired firefighter from the northern New Mexico city of Las Vegas who was driving a pickup truck and not involved with the pursuit. Jaramillo had initially said she had been carjacked at knifepoint, according to authorities, and she was released after being treated at a hospital for injuries that were not life-threatening. She was arrested Saturday, according to a New Mexico State Police news release, after evidence submitted to a lab Friday showed she was the sole driver of the stolen vehicle involved in the crash.

World

Attack on Ukrainian nuke plant triggers global alarm

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian troops Friday seized the biggest nuclear power plant in Europe after a middle-of-the-night attack that set it on fire and briefly raised worldwide fears of a catastrophe in the most chilling turn yet in Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Firefighters put out the blaze, and no radiation was released, U.N. and Ukrainian officials said. Russian forces pressed on with their week-old offensive on multiple fronts, though they did not appear to gain significant ground in fighting Friday. The number of refugees fleeing the country eclipsed 1.2 million.

With world condemnation mounting, the Kremlin cracked down on the flow of information at home, blocking Facebook, Twitter, the BBC and the U.S. government-funded Voice of America. And President Vladimir Putin signed a law making it a crime punishable by up to 15 years in prison to spread so-called fake news, including anything that goes against the official government line on the war.

Multiple outlets said they would pause their work inside Russia while they evaluate the situation. CNN and CBS News announced they would stop broadcasting in Russia and Bloomberg temporarily suspended the work of its journalists there.

While the vast Russian armored column threatening Kyiv remained stalled outside the capital, Putin's military has launched hundreds of missiles and artillery attacks on cities and other sites across the country, and made significant gains on the ground in the south in an apparent bid to cut off Ukraine's access to the sea.

In the attack on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in the southeastern city of Enerhodar, the chief of the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Mariano Grossi, said a Russian "projectile" hit a training center, not any of the six reactors.

The attack triggered global alarm and fear of a catastrophe that could dwarf the world's worst nuclear disaster, at Ukraine's Chernobyl in 1986. In an emotional nighttime speech, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he feared an explosion that would be "the end for everyone. The end for Europe. The evacuation of Europe."

But nuclear officials from Sweden to China said no radiation spikes had been reported, as did Grossi.

Authorities said Russian troops had taken control of the overall site but plant staff continued to run it. Only one reactor was operating, at 60% of capacity, Grossi said in the aftermath of the attack.

Two people were injured in the fire, Grossi said. Ukraine's state nuclear plant operator Enerhoatom said three Ukrainian soldiers were killed and two wounded.

In the U.S., Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said the episode "underscores the recklessness with which the Russians have been perpetrating this unprovoked invasion." At an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council, Ukraine's U.N. ambassador, Sergiy Kyslytsya, said the fire broke out as a result of Russian shelling of the plant and accused Moscow of committing "an act of nuclear terrorism."

Without producing evidence, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov claimed that a Ukrainian "sabotage group" had set the fire at Zaporizhzhia.

WORLD BRIEFS

Putin says Ukraine's future in doubt as cease-fires collapse

LVIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Saturday that Ukrainian statehood is in jeopardy and likened the West's sanctions on Russia to "declaring war," while a promised cease-fire in the besieged port city of Mariupol collapsed amid scenes of terror. With the Kremlin's rhetoric growing fiercer and a reprieve from fighting dissolving, Russian troops continued to shell encircled cities and the number of Ukrainians forced from their country grew to 1.4 million. By Saturday night Russian forces had intensified their shelling of Mariupol, while dropping powerful bombs on residential areas of Chernihiv, a city north of Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said. Bereft mothers mourned slain children, wounded soldiers were fitted with tourniquets and doctors worked by the light of their cellphones as bleakness and desperation pervaded. Putin continued to pin the blame for all of it squarely on the Ukrainian leadership and slammed their resistance to the invasion.

Death toll climbs to 63 in deadly Pakistan IS mosque attack

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Officials vowed Saturday to hunt down and arrest the masterminds behind a deadly mosque attack in Pakistan a day earlier claimed by an Islamic State affiliate. The assault killed 63 people and wounded nearly 200. IS said in a statement the lone suicide bomber was from neighboring Afghanistan. He shot two police guarding the Shiite Muslim mosque in northwest Peshawar before entering inside and exploding his device, it said. The attack took place as worshipers knelt in Friday prayer. The IS affiliate, known as IS in Khorasan Province, is headquartered in eastern Afghanistan. The Taliban rulers in Afghanistan, who have been fighting IS, condemned the attack. IS has proven to be the Taliban's greatest security threat since sweeping into power last August.

S. Korean wildfire destroys 159 homes, forces 6,200 to flee

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Thousands of South Korean firefighters and troops were battling a large wildfire on Saturday that tore through an eastern coastal area and temporarily threatened a nuclear power station and a liquified natural gas plant. The fire, which began Friday morning on a mountain in the seaside town of Uljin and has spread across more than 6,000 hectares (14,800 acres) to the nearby city of Samcheok, destroyed at least 159 homes and 46 other buildings and prompted the evacuation of more than 6,200 people. Images from Uljin and Samcheok showed large swaths of white and gray smoke emerging from the slopes of mountains that cover the country's eastern coast and firefighters operating water hoses amid thick, smoky air. There were no immediate reports of injuries or deaths.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

How can parents talk to their children about mental health issues?

By DR. JEFFREY D. SHAHIDULLAH AND DR. REBECCA A. BAUM
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Children, teens and families are navigating difficult times. Sometimes it can be hard to tell when something serious may be going on. Talking with your child's pediatrician is a great place to start.

Many pediatricians check for mental health concerns at well-child visits. The doctor may ask your child questions or ask them to fill out a questionnaire that checks how they're doing. As your child gets older, it's important for them to have the opportunity to talk privately with their pediatrician. This also lets them practice talking with the doctor, which is a skill they'll need as a young adult.

As a parent, you can also bring up concerns about your child's mental health, either at a well-child visit or whenever concerns arise. It's often a good idea to talk with your child ahead of time. Consider starting the conversation by assuring, "I care about you and want to make sure I understand how you're feeling. Your doctor is someone who can help."

It's normal for your child to experience difficult thoughts, feelings, and emotions. When these issues occur more than usual and begin to get in the way of regular functioning, it could be a sign of something more serious. Here are some signs to look for that may signal the need for additional support:

- Feeling "on edge" or "wound up" most of the time
- Worrying about things for no reason or having negative thoughts that are hard to control
- Feeling panicky or having physical symptoms like headaches, stomach pains, rapid breathing, fast heartbeat, or diarrhea
- Avoiding activities because of fear or anxiety
- Changes in sleep habits (trouble sleeping or being tired during the day)
- Changes in eating habits (eating too much or too little)
- Being quick to give up on challenging tasks
- Struggling with schoolwork
- Spending more time alone
- Feeling sad or irritable
- Feeling guilty about things
- Talking about death or suicide

Talk with your child's pediatrician if you have noticed signs or symptoms that concern you. Even if you're just wondering if something is normal for your child's developmental level, your child's pediatrician is an ideal source of support. You can also talk with the nursing staff or do a telehealth visit.

Your child's pediatrician can also help you sort out whether talking with a mental health professional may be a good idea. They can help determine which issues they can support in their office versus when to see other mental health professionals, such as a psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker or licensed professional counselor.

Even though mental health concerns are common, they may still carry stigma in our society. Help fight this stigma by letting your child know that you love and support them, no matter how they're feeling. Let them know that we all sometimes struggle and that help is available.

Your child's pediatrician is a trusted source of information who can help you and your child through difficult times.

MAYO CLINIC MINUTE: Breaking down colorectal cancer

By JASON HOWLAND
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Cancer of the rectum and colon often are referred to together as colorectal cancer, but treatments can be different.

Dr. David Etzioni, a Mayo Clinic colorectal surgeon, reminds people that early diagnosis and treatment are crucial to ensure better outcomes, and that it all begins with scheduling a screening.

"Colorectal cancer is a type of cancer that arises from the skin that lines the inner surface of the colon and rectum."

Dr. Etzioni says the colon and the rectum are in effect the same.

"The colon and rectum are what we call the large intestine. It's about 5 feet long and is the last part of the GI (gastrointestinal) tract, just before the GI stream exits the body."

"The rectum is the last 12 to 14 centimeters of the large intestine. And while they are somewhat geographically distinct, they are in effect one that runs into the other."

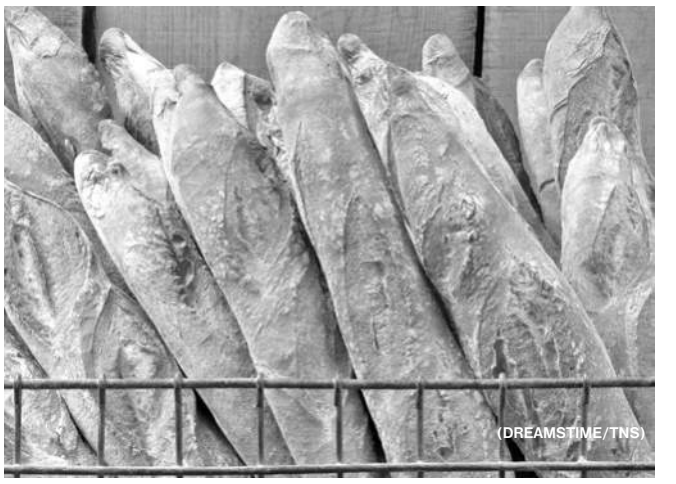
Colon and rectal cancers are similar in many ways, but their treatment can be different, depending on stage and location.

"Usually when we find a colon cancer or rectal cancer, the operation involves removing a portion of the colon or rectum."

Dr. Etzioni says it's much more effective to treat an earlier-stage cancer than a later one, and that's why screening is so important.

"Colorectal cancer screening is one of the most effective types of screening for a cancer because not only can we detect an early-stage cancer, but we can actually prevent a cancer from developing."

Who needs a gluten-free diet and why?



(DREAMSTIME/TNS)

By LAUREL KELLY
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

March is National Nutrition Month, which makes this a good time to learn why some people need a gluten-free diet.

Whole grains are an important part of healthy diet. They are good sources of complex carbohydrates, as well as some key vitamins and minerals. And because whole grains are naturally high in fiber, they may help you feel full and satisfied, which can make it easier to maintain a healthy body weight. Eating more wholegrain foods also can lower your blood pressure.

Some people, though, have a medical diagnosis that means they must avoid the gluten in grains such as wheat, barley and rye.

Celiac disease, also called celiac sprue or gluten-sensitive enteropathy, is an immune reaction to eating gluten. While the cause of celiac disease isn't known, the disease is becoming more common.

If you have celiac disease, eating gluten triggers an immune response in your small intestine. Over time, this reaction damages your small intestine's lining and prevents it from absorbing some nutrients. The intestinal damage often causes diarrhea, fatigue, weight loss, bloating and anemia. And it can lead to serious complications.

A gluten-free diet is essential to manage signs and symptoms of celiac disease and other medical conditions associated with gluten, including nonceliac gluten sensitivity, gluten ataxia and wheat allergy.

Following a gluten-free diet requires paying careful attention to food selections, the ingredients found in foods and their nutritional content, as well as medications.

Removing wheat, barley and rye from your diet may seem daunting. Trace amounts of gluten in your diet can be damaging, even if they don't cause signs or symptoms. Gluten can be hidden in foods and nonfood products, including medications, vitamin and mineral supplements, toothpaste and mouthwash. A dietitian can help you plan a healthy, gluten-free diet.

And you can still enjoy the health benefits of eating whole grains. Options in a gluten-free diet include buckwheat, corn, flax, millet, quinoa and rice. While oats are naturally gluten-free, they may be contaminated during production with wheat, barley or rye. Oats and oat products labeled as gluten-free have not been cross-contaminated. However, some people with celiac disease cannot tolerate the oats labeled as gluten-free.

How COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy may protect babies after birth

By DEEDEE STIEPAN
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 during pregnancy might protect not only the pregnant woman, but also the baby after birth. That's what a recent Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study suggests.

Data show that being vaccinated, even before pregnancy, can prevent COVID-19 hospitalizations among infants 6 months and younger.

Dr. Myra Wick, a Mayo Clinic OB-GYN, explains why the findings are significant.

The study looked at two groups of infants 6 months and younger who had been admitted to the hospital. One group was admitted for COVID-19 infection. The second was admitted for various other reasons.

Researchers then looked at the vaccination statuses of the mothers during pregnancy to see if being vaccinated provided some protection after delivery for the infants. The babies whose mothers were vaccinated during pregnancy were found to be protected for up to six months after birth.

Q. How do babies gain this protection?

A. "When the mom is vaccinated, she produces antibodies, and these antibodies can be transferred through the cord blood to the baby and provide what we call 'passive immunization.' The antibodies transferred from the mom protect the infant against COVID infection."

(PHOTO BY JACK GUEZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES/TNS)

A health worker administers a dose of the Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine to a pregnant woman at Clalit Health Services, in Israel's Mediterranean coastal city of Tel Aviv on January 23, 2021.

Dr. Wick says one of the best examples of this, prior to COVID, is the tetanus diphtheria and acellular pertussis booster, or Tdap.

"We vaccinate all women who are pregnant with Tdap, regardless of when they were vaccinated previously," says Dr. Wick. "Mom produces an increased number of antibodies in response to the vaccination. These are transferred to the fetus and provide protection against pertussis (whooping cough)."

Q. Why are these findings significant?

A. "It just gives us another reason to encourage moms to vaccinate during pregnancy. We know that moms who are pregnant and get COVID-19 are at increased risk for needing hospitalization, ICU care, ventilation, even death. And that data has been pretty well established. Those are all reasons to be vaccinated, and now knowing that there could be protection for the baby, as well, is very exciting. And seeing that protection up to six months — that's wonderful."

Q. Guidance for those who have not been vaccinated for COVID-19, and are pregnant or plan to become pregnant

A. "Vaccinate. We know that there aren't any adverse effects. There are over 185,000 women enrolled in the V-Safe Program, which is a tracking program through the CDC after COVID vaccination, who have reported that they were pregnant at the time of receiving the COVID vaccine. There haven't been any increased number of adverse events or effects in women who have received the vaccine. We also know that there aren't any issues with fertility. There aren't any issues with miscarriage associated with the vaccine."

COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy is recommended to prevent severe illness and death in women who are pregnant. Infants are also at risk for COVID-19 associated complications, including respiratory failure and other life-threatening complications.

Life & Style

Anna Netrebko out of Met Opera over her support of Putin

NEW YORK (AP)—Soprano Anna Netrebko withdrew from her future engagements at the Metropolitan Opera rather than repudiate her support for Russian President Vladimir Putin, costing the company one of its top singers and best box-office draws.

"It is a great artistic loss for the Met and for opera," Met General Manager Peter Gelb said in a statement Thursday. "Anna is one of the greatest singers in Met history, but with Putin killing innocent victims in Ukraine, there was no way forward."

Gelb had said Sunday that the Met would not engage artists who support Putin.

The Met made repeated efforts in recent days attempting to convince Netrebko to repudiate Putin but failed to persuade her, a person familiar with the developments said, speaking on condition of anonymity because that detail was not announced.

The Met's decision followed the collapse of the international career of Russian conductor Valery Gergiev, who has been close to Putin as artistic and general director of the Mariinsky in St. Petersburg.

The invasion of Ukraine has led to a show of solidarity in the arts and culture world with Ukrainians and a backlash against the Russian government and those with ties to it that won't reject Putin's actions. The ripple effects have also reached the international sports world.

Netrebko, a 50-year-old from Krasnodar, received the People's Artist of Russia honor from Putin in 2008.

She was photographed in 2014 holding a Novorussian flag after giving a 1 million ruble donation (then $18,500) to the opera hose in Donetsk, a Ukrainian city controlled by pro-Russia separatists.

On Tuesday, Netrebko withdrew from all her upcoming performances. Her next listed performance was at Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu on April 3, followed by three concerts with her husband, Azerbaijani tenor Yusif Eyvazov, and an April 13 concert with the Berlin Philharmonic.

Netrebko

"I am opposed to this senseless war of aggression and I am calling on Russia to end this war right now, to save all of us. We need peace right now," she said. "This is not a time for me to make music and perform. I have therefore decided to take a step back from performing for the time being. It is an extremely difficult decision for me, but I know that my audience will understand and respect this decision."

There was no immediate response from Netrebko to Gelb's announcement.

Netrebko made her Met debut on Feb, 14, 2002, in Prokofiev's "War and Peace" and quickly became a house favorite. She has appeared in 192 performances at the house, the last a New Year's Eve gala she starred in on Dec. 31, 2019.

Netrebko will be replaced by Ukrainian soprano Liudmyla Monastyrska in Puccini's "Turandot" for five performances from April 30 to May 14, including a May 7 performance broadcast to theaters worldwide. The Met said Netrebko also will be replaced as Elisabetta in Verdi's "Don Carlo" for five performances from Nov. 3-19.

The Met also said it would construct its own sets and costumes for next season's new production of Wagner's "Lohengrin" rather than share them with Moscow's Bolshoi Opera, as originally planned.

Gergiev was fired this week as chief conductor of the Munich Philharmonic, and the Gergiev festival, an annual event since 1996, was canceled by the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, where he was principal guest conductor from 1995 to 2008. He also was dropped by the Vienna Philharmonic, the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland and Milan's Teatro alla Scala.

Nikolaj Coster-Waldau goes 'Against the Ice' in Netflix pic

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Winter could have been over for Nikolaj Coster-Waldau when "Game of Thrones" ended in 2019, but the Danish star put himself back in the snow for his latest adventure, "Against the Ice."

The film, which is now available on Netflix, follows the wild saga of Denmark's Ejnar Mikkelsen, a captain, explorer and author who set out in 1909 to recover the maps and journals of a failed Artic expedition a few years prior. At stake was a dispute over Northeast Greenland, which the United States had claimed and which the Dutch were attempting to invalidate by proving that Greenland was one island. Mikkelsen had only his sled dogs and one inexperienced mate at his side for the mission, which kept getting more complicated.

It's a project that has been with Coster-Waldau for almost a decade. Director Peter Flinth, a friend from school, sent Mikkelsen's book "Two Against the Ice" to consider. Flinth had heard about it from the Queen of Denmark Margrethe II who had mentioned to Flinth that it might make a good movie. Coster-Waldau agreed and not only does he star: He also co-wrote the script with his longtime friend and collaborator Joe Derrick.

"It was a long journey. It was a complicated book to adapt." Coster-Waldau, 51, said in a recent interview. "I've always loved survival stories, explorers who go to unknown places. It's exciting. But what really caught me here was it was an unusual combination. Normally both men would have had the same ambitions and hopes but here one of them was a famous explorer and the other was literally just a mechanic. This is what actually saves them, that they were so different."

They shot on location on glaciers mostly in Iceland, some in Greenland, and relied minimally on CGI. In casting Joe Cole as Mikkelsen's very green companion Iver Iversen, the filmmakers warned the actor that the conditions would be harsh and comforts minimal. (There was a bus people could go to to get out of the elements for a bit, but no personal trailers on the glacier.)

AP
Nikolaj Coster-Waldau poses in New York on March 2, 2022, to promote his film "Against the Ice."

At one point, Netflix sent back a note on footage they had seen worried that they were overdoing it with the snow and ice on his beard, not realizing that it was neither makeup nor effects—it was real. Funnily enough, Coster-Waldau said his fur period costumes proved warmer than the modern artic gear that much of the crew was wearing.

The film's debut is a full circle moment for Coster-Waldau and Flinth, who over 30 years ago brought one of their student short films to New York, hoping it might open the doors to Hollywood magically. They got a screening room somewhere on Broadway and some friends showed up. It was a fun night but not exactly a career changer. But it made the premiere of "Against the Ice" at the Paris Theater this week even more poignant for the longtime friends.

"The fact that Nikolaj and I kept working on this story for so long is proof that it had enough material and substance to make it into a great movie," Flinth said.

Friendship has been a theme of the whole project, both in the story itself and in the fact that Coster-Waldau and Derrick made their creative partnership official a few years ago, founding Ill Kippers Productions. It was actually seeing "Game of Thrones" showrunners David Benioff and D.B. Weiss work together that inspired him to start the company.

After years of inattention, family takes separate path

DEAR ABBY: We married and had children very late in life, so our children are by far the youngest in our extended family. When they graduated from high school, we tried to throw a party (with the many relatives on my partner's side and a small number of mine), but only three people could come. There could have been 50.

Some of my partner's siblings were going away for the weekend, some had grandchild sports events (baseball games), and my own sibling was babysitting and therefore could stop in for only a few minutes. Needless to say, we had faithfully attended each and every event in the family up to this point, but no one felt the urge to help us celebrate when it was our turn.

Our kids have been ignored now that our siblings' grandkids have arrived. This is not the only story I could tell like this; I could write a book. Consequently, we've decided that because our kids have been ignored, we will not celebrate the next generation's events. Our relatives seem puzzled that we're not as enthralled with the preschool graduations and first birthdays of their grandkids, but, hey, where were they?

Funny thing is, they seem to believe my adult children didn't notice they were being ignored. They have little interaction with the "loving" relatives who snubbed them. Are we wrong to feel this way?

MIFFED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR MIFFED: No, you are human. However, more honest communication with these relatives when it was happening might have averted the schism created by their self-centered behavior. Your situation is regrettable, but I can't blame your children—or you—for feeling the way you all do.

DEAR ABBY: I am a grieving mother. My only son was murdered six months ago. He was 36 years old. I had no insurance, and I'm making payments to pay the costs of the funeral home. I would love a tombstone for his grave and found one for $1,500.

My life will never be the same. I know I need to see a counselor because this has gotten the best of me and I don't know how to move forward. On top of that, my sister died two months ago and I can't sleep. Please help me.

SAD IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SAD: I am so sorry for the tragic loss of not only your beloved son, but also your sister. A tombstone for your son's grave may have to wait, because it is most important that you make an effort to take care of yourself for a while.

If you haven't joined a grief support group, please consider it. There is also a support group, the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children (pomc.org), that can provide you the emotional support you need. If you have a physician, it's important that you inform them about your sleep problems. Considering the double dose of trauma you have experienced, your doctor shouldn't be surprised and may be able to provide medication to help. Please write again and let me know how you are doing. I care.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

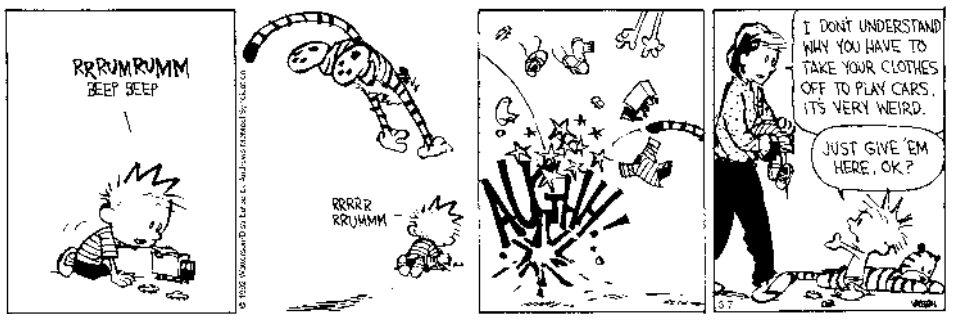
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

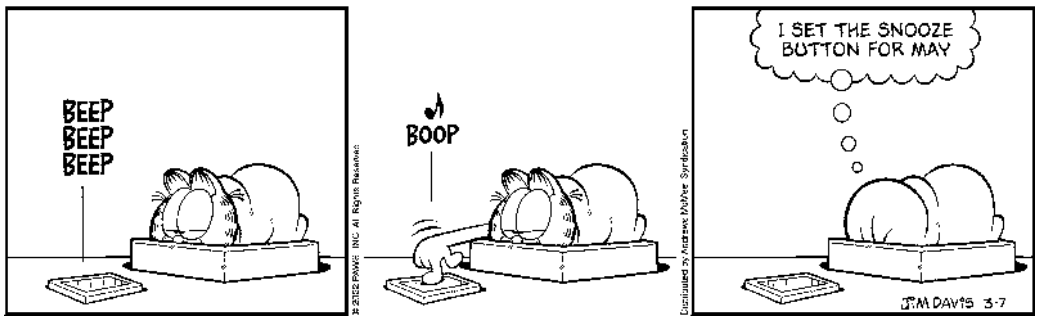
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


RRRUMRUMM
BEEP BEEP
RRRRR
RRUMMM
AUGHH
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HAVE TO TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF TO PLAY CARS. IT'S VERY WEIRD.
JUST GIVE 'EM HERE, OK?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ALL THIS NEWS ABOUT THE PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD IS DEPRESSING. TIMES LIKE THIS LEAVE ME DESPERATE FOR ANY SIGN THINGS WILL BE OKAY.
LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN FIND TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
CLICK
THE SHAM-WOW GUY, I'LL TAKE IT!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tavern
4 Step
9 Baseball execs
12 Belief
13 Heart line?
14 Actor Stephen
15 TV show interrupter
17 Jug handle
18 In medias —
19 Designer Giorgio
21 Sign up
24 Lacking slack
25 Zodiac cat
26 Dress
28 Door piece
31 PC alternatives
33 Actor Brynner
35 500 sheets
36 Borneo ape, for short
38 Pro vote
40 Humorist
41 Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
43 Contorts
45 Made an impression?
47 Blue
48 Chopper
49 Anchors' workplaces
54 Morning moisture
55 Went out with
56 "Norma —"
57 Condo coolers
58 Ninnies
59 Wager

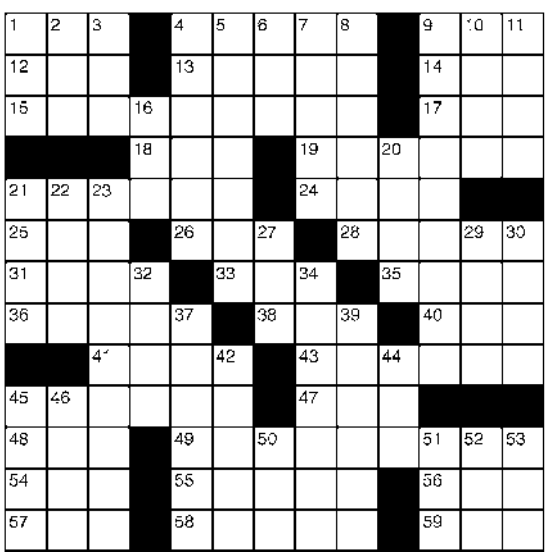
DOWN

1 Brooch
2 Exploit
3 Upscale auto
4 Least risky
5 "War and Peace" author
6 Altar constellation
7 Beck's "Where —"
8 Gung-ho
9 "You'll be happy to hear this!"
10 Intend
11 Mumbai dress
16 — Lanka
20 Naturalist John
21 Ticklish Muppet
22 Close
23 Neighborhood buzz on TV
27 Chap
29 Pace
30 911 responders
32 Tizzy
34 "Hmm ..."
37 Actress Jackson
39 Prizes
42 Concepts
44 Altar promise
45 Baby's call
46 Corp. bigwig
50 Scale amts.
51 Sphere
52 Fannie —
53 Collection

Solution time: 26 mins.

H	E	H	■	A	S	H	■	S	A	L	O	N
A	V	I	■	I	T	E	■	A	D	O	R	E
V	I	N	■	D	E	M	I	M	O	O	R	E
E	T	D	■	E	R	A	S	E	■	■	■	■
N	A	I	L	■	■	N	N	E	■	C	A	R	O
■	■	■	I	T	S	■	E	A	R	T	H	Y
P	A	R	M	A	■	■	■	S	I	L	O	S
A	C	T	O	R	S	■	L	A	M	■	■	■
N	E	S	S	■	H	B	O	■	P	U	N	K
■	■	■	S	E	U	S	S	■	T	E	A	■
D	E	M	I	T	A	S	S	E	■	I	V	Y
U	N	I	T	Y	■	E	E	L	■	C	E	O
B	O	X	■	Y	S	L	■	A	R	S	■	■

Last Friday's Answer 03/07



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Giselle Eisenberg, 15; Jenna Fischer, 48; Rachel Weisz, 52; Bryan Cranston, 66.

Happy Birthday: Sift through all the stuff you've accumulated and dump what's collecting dust. Revise your schedule to meet your needs. You'll get a sense of what's possible and the steps needed to fine-tune your life if you are organized. Once you have a plan in place, the rest will come easy. Using your energy wisely will build confidence. Your numbers are 6, 18, 22, 27, 31, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Stick to your plan, regardless of others' actions. Consistency will play a role in how far you get. Observe who helps, and you'll find it easier to gauge your time to ensure you complete what's left undone. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May* 20): Show consistency, and you will gain respect. If you switch from one thing to another, you'll create confusion and uncertainty. Keep your thoughts to yourself until you have a plan in place that is foolproof. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Preparation is necessary if you plan to finish what you start. Refuse to let anyone lead you astray or give you a reason to doubt yourself. Stay on course until you are satisfied with what you achieve. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be original, bring about change and make a difference. Don't be afraid to think big and share your ideas. How you conduct business and go about learning and educating others will send you down a rewarding path. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Refuse to let what others do influence you. Base your decisions on what matters to you and encourages you to accomplish something meaningful. Set goals, stick to your plan and don't stop until you reach your destination. Fitness is encouraged. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Gather information and share your findings. Don't let anyone use manipulation to mislead you. Verify the truth before you share information or make a counteroffer. Trust your intuition when dealing with partnerships. Refuse to let an emotional situation cause uncertainty. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Networking will pay off. Your intelligence, knowledge and experience will capture attention, and the way you carry out your promises will impress someone of influence. Don't miss out on an opportunity to meet and greet; romance looks promising. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stick to what you do best. Avoid negative people or those looking for fight. Use your energy to enforce positive lifestyle changes. Your happiness depends on you and the decisions you make. A creative pursuit will change how you do things. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Rethink the way you live, handle your money and what you do for a living. A change may tempt you, but it must be for the right reason. Don't jump into something that someone is trying to sell you. Check the ramifications. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take it easy, think about what you want, consider what's possible and do what's necessary. Sticking to a budget and a plan will help you minimize any trouble you encounter with onlookers and those affected by your decisions. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stay put and clear up unfinished business. Consider your long-term plans, but don't try to do too much all at once. It will cost you mentally, physically and emotionally. Bide your time, and strategize until you feel confident your plan will work. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Face your emotions head-on, and you'll come up with a plan that will improve your lifestyle. It's OK to do things differently and to put your needs first. Explore what sparks your interest and encourages you to use your skills constructively. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are magnanimous, accepting and unique. You are energetic and playful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8			6			
	7	1		6			5	
4		5	9	7		1	3	
				3		7		9
	1	7				8	2	
2		4		5				
	4	3		9	6	2		1
	8			2		4	6	
		6			3			

Difficulty Level ★ 3/07

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	8	4	5	2	7	1	3	9
2	3	9	4	8	1	6	5	7
1	5	7	3	6	9	2	8	4
4	7	6	9	1	8	5	2	3
9	2	3	7	5	6	8	4	1
8	1	5	2	3	4	7	9	6
3	4	1	8	7	2	9	6	5
7	9	8	6	4	5	3	1	2
5	6	2	1	9	3	4	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HIEROGLYPHS **Solution: 11 letters**

D	N	U	O	S	T	R	A	C	A	M	K	N	O	W
S	R	H	E	S	B	M	O	T	U	L	P	B	R	T
A	E	A	U	W	A	L	L	S	A	R	J	O	S	S
N	T	G	W	M	U	S	E	U	E	E	S	I	E	A
I	R	R	A	M	A	G	G	L	C	E	L	I	E	C
H	A	A	N	M	A	N	I	T	T	A	R	C	V	R
C	N	S	O	U	I	T	S	T	R	E	P	I	R	E
I	S	P	G	L	E	I	A	E	V	Y	O	T	A	D
B	L	N	I	R	T	S	T	O	T	A	R	P	C	N
A	A	R	A	N	T	A	C	S	Y	M	B	O	L	G
L	T	T	E	O	L	S	C	R	I	P	T	C	T	I
L	E	I	N	I	I	M	P	R	I	N	T	M	I	S
Y	C	E	N	D	E	C	I	P	H	E	R	E	D	W
S	T	U	D	I	E	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	E	O
A	N	O	I	T	A	R	E	M	U	N	A	M	O	R

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Carve, China, Columns, Coptic, Cursive, Deciphered, Decorate, Discoveries, Draw, Grasp, Human, Images, Imprint, Know, Language, List, Numeration, Object, Ostraca, Preliterate, Roman, Rosetta Stone, Rows, Sacred, Scientist, Script, Sign, Sound, Story, Studied, Syllabic, Symbol, Tombs, Translate, Trilingual, Unilateral, Walls

Last Friday's Answer: America's Dad

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

LeBron James scores 56 points to help Lakers beat Warriors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Despite ranking third in NBA history in scoring and closing fast on Karl Malone in second, LeBron James has somehow never been thought of as a pure scorer.

On Saturday night, James showed he is still more than capable of piling up the points in a variety of ways.

James scored a season-high 56 points and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Golden State Warriors 124-116 to snap a four-game losing streak. It was his third-most points in a regular-season game and 13th time he has had at least 50.

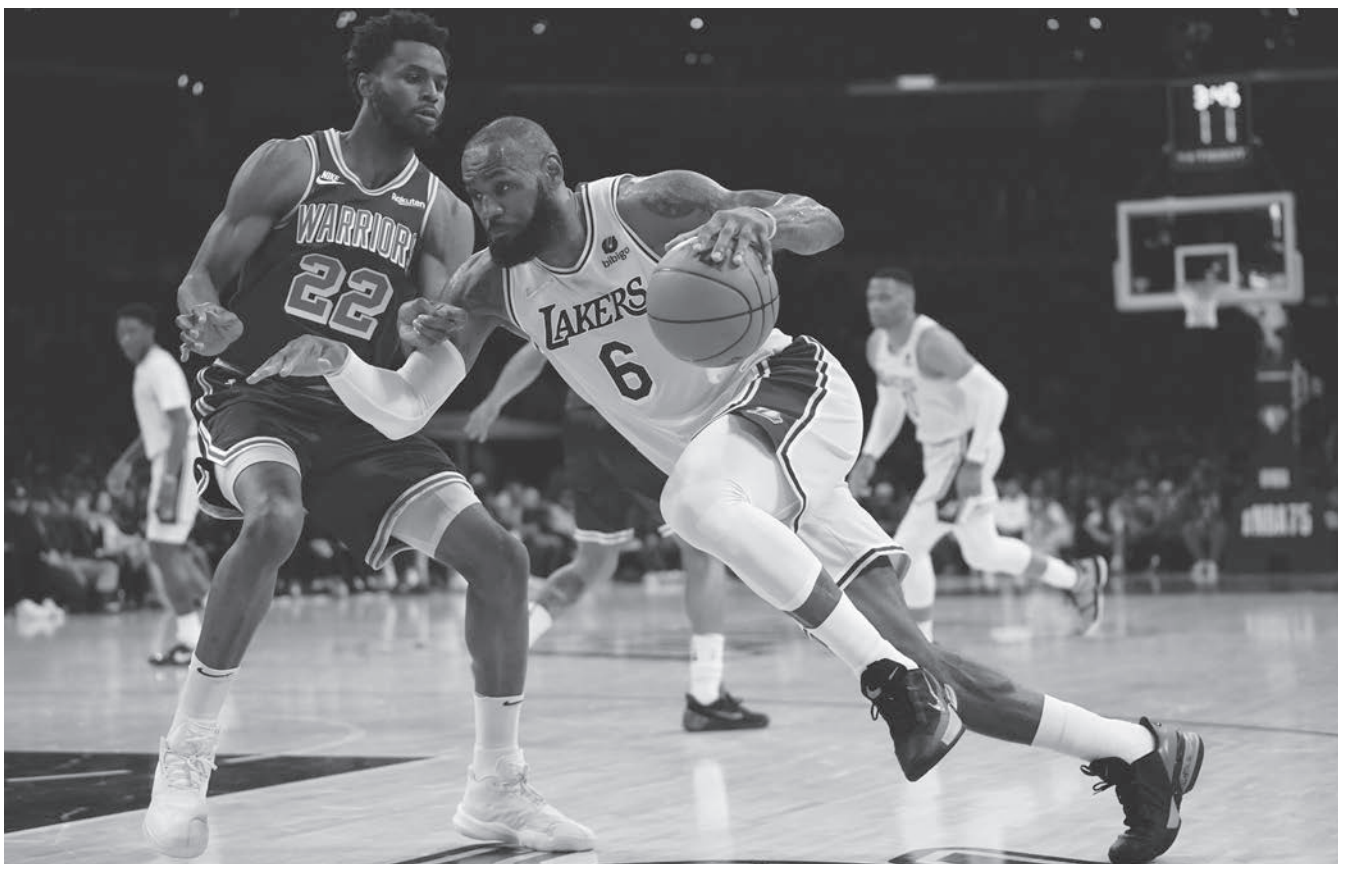
"I felt pretty good with my game tonight, every part of the floor, and I was able to make a couple plays to help us win," said James, who had a career-best 61 for Miami against Charlotte in 2014.

While James downplayed his 19-of-31 shooting, including 6 of 11 from 3-point range with three consecutive to put the Lakers up 100-97 in the fourth quarter, friends and foes were more than willing to praise his performance.

"He was phenomenal tonight," said Lakers forward Carmelo Anthony, who had 14 points. "The way that it came, in the rhythm of the game and the flow of the game, us making that comeback and him being a big reason for us coming back and making that run that he did. He just put us on his back tonight."

"He's obviously such a handful coming downhill, and then when he gets his 3-point shot going like he did in the second half, makes it pretty difficult to try and guard him," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "He was brilliant tonight. LeBron was amazing."

Anthony completed a three-point play to give the Lakers a 114-112 lead with 3:29 to play, and Malik Monk hit a 3 to extend that lead to five after Austin Reeves stole Curry's pass. James then threw down a thunderous alley-oop from Monk, who stole the inbound pass after a Los Angeles turnover.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (6) drives against Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins (22) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Saturday, March 5, 2022.

Stephen Curry cut it to 119-116 with 1:06 left, but Reeves grabbed the offensive rebound and Anthony hit a corner 3, allowing the Lakers to see it out.

Curry had 30 for Golden State, and Jordan Poole added 23. The Warriors have lost four straight to drop to third overall in the NBA, a half-game behind Memphis and 8 1/2 games behind Phoenix.

"There's more games coming, so we've got to do this ourselves. We got to dig out of the mud, and nobody's going to help us," Kerr said.

Golden State ran over Los Angeles with 42 points in the second quarter to take a 67-62 halftime lead. Poole and Jonathan Kuminga each had eight points, Curry added seven, and the Warriors made 69.6% of their shots from the field (16 of 23) and 75% from 3-point range (6 of 8). But they let the Lakers close the half on a 11-2 run, and Kerr lamented the inability to maintain separation.

"This has been a pattern during this bad spell for us," Kerr said. "We're not stepping on teams when they are down. We're making mistakes and allowing teams to hang around, and when you do that in this league you're dead."

Mavericks 114, Kings 113

In Dallas, Dorian Finney-Smith hit a 3-pointer from the right corner with 3.3 seconds left and Dallas, playing without All-Star guard Luka Doncic, overcame a 19-point deficit for the second time this week to beat Sacramento.

Doncic was listed on the injury report as having a left toe sprain.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored a season-high 36 points in his first start for Dallas since being acquired from Washington on Feb. 10. Jalen Brunson added 23 points and assisted on the winning basket, driving the length of the court before passing to Finney-Smith for a 114-111 lead.

The Kings had a chance to tie it in the closing seconds, but Harrison Barnes' 30-footer went off the rim and Justin Holiday converted the miss for a layup for the game's final points.

Dallas trailed by 19 at Golden State last Sunday before rallying for a 107-101 victory. The Mavericks have won five straight. De'Aaron Fox matched a career high with 44 points for Sacramento.

Heat 99, 76ers 82

In Miami, Tyler Herro and Jimmy Butler each scored 21 points and Miami pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Philadelphia,

Gabe Vincent scored 16 points and Caleb Martin added 14 for the Heat. They are 11-2 in their last 13 games. Miami was again without Kyle Lowry, who missed his fourth consecutive game because of personal reasons.

Miami went 3-1 on the week against four East contenders, beating Chicago, Brooklyn and now Philadelphia. The only loss was at Milwaukee, a game where the Heat led by 14 midway through the fourth quarter before collapsing.

Joel Embiid finished with 22 points and 15 rebounds for Philadelphia, which held out James Harden on the second night of a back-to-back as he recovers from a left hamstring injury.

Hornets 123, Spurs 117

In Charlotte, N.C., Terry Rozier scored 31 points and Charlotte beat San Antonio, leaving Spurs coach Gregg Popovich a victory short of the tying the NBA record.

San Antonio has lost four straight since beating Washington on Feb. 25 to move Popovich within one of Don Nelson's record of 1,335 regular-season victories.

LaMelo Ball added 24 points for Charlotte, P.J. Washington and Montrezl Harrell each had 15 and Mason Plumlee had 13 rebounds. The Hornets made 19 of their last 20 free throws.

Keldon Johnson led San Antonio with 33 points, but was limited to five in the second half. Dejounte Murray had 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Grizzlies 124, Magic 96

In Memphis, Tenn., Ja Morant had 25 points and seven assists, Desmond Bane scored 24 points on 10-for-15 shooting and Memphis routed Orlando.

Tyus Jones added 14 points for Memphis. The Grizzlies have won three of four.

Cole Anthony led the Magic with 19 points. Moritz Wagner had 17 points and 11 rebounds.

Timberwolves 135, Trail Blazers 121

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 36 points and 15 rebounds and Minnesota beat short-handed Portland for its fourth straight win.

The Timberwolves are averaging 133.3 points during the stretch and trail Denver by two games for the sixth spot in the Western Conference.

Anfernee Simons had 38 points, including a career-high tying nine 3-pointers, for Portland.

Analysis: After 60 years, Wilt's 100 remains untouchable

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

There's irony in the fact that no video is known to exist of Wilt Chamberlain's 100-point game for the Philadelphia Warriors on March 2, 1962.

Nobody can watch it now.

Nobody has seen anything like it, either. And probably never will.

Wednesday marks the 60th anniversary of the greatest scoring effort in NBA history — 36 field goals, 28 free throws, 100 points for Chamberlain, in the Warriors' 169-147 win over the New York Knicks in a game played before about 4,000 people in Hershey, Pennsylvania. It might be the closest thing the NBA has to a single-game record that will never be broken.

Chamberlain, for the record, disagreed with that sentiment.

"I think it can be broken," he said in 1987, around the 25th anniversary of the historic night.

Not yet. Not even close.

Kobe Bryant scored 81 points for the Los Angeles Lakers one night against Toronto, the closest anyone has ever come to Chamberlain's mark. David Thompson scored 73, Elgin Baylor and David Robinson each scored 71, and Devin Booker had a 70-point game.

That's it. Think about it: No player has gotten closer than 19 points to 100, and only five have come within 30 points. Even in this era in which 3-pointers are all the rage — remember, they were about two decades from existence when Chamberlain set the record — hardly anyone has gotten within 30 points of history.

Booker got his 70-point game in 2017. Carmelo Anthony and Stephen Curry each had a 62-point effort in the last decade. James Harden has hit the 60-point mark four times, Damian Lillard three times, while Klay Thompson and LeBron James each got there once.

A 60-piece, that's obviously huge.

But it's also nowhere near the record.

Break down the numbers, and it starts to make sense why nobody has come close.

To get to 100 points, that's two 50-point halves. In the last 25 years, nobody has had more first-half points in a game than Bryant, who had 42 against Washington in 2003. And the only 50-point second halves in the last 25 years belong to Bryant (55 against Toronto in the 81-point game in 2006) and Booker (51 against Boston in his 70-point game in 2017).

So, forget the 50-point halves. Let's try four 25-point quarters. Nobody has had more of those in the last 25 years than Curry, who can get on a hot streak like few others can dream about.

Curry's career high for a first quarter is 25 points. For a second quarter, 26 points. For a third quarter, 28 points. And for a fourth quarter, 21 points.

That's the best of his best, the hottest of his hottest, the four best regular-season quarter performances he's ever had.

They add up to exactly 100 points.

Picturing him having those four insane quarters in one night is, well, let's just say it doesn't seem likely, even for perhaps the greatest shooter the game has ever seen.

There are so many more hints that another 100-point night just aren't going to happen.

- Chamberlain took 63 shots from the field that night. Nobody has taken more than 50 in a game since.
- Chamberlain played all 48 minutes of that game. That hardly ever happens anymore, either. Chamberlain was on the floor all the way to the end in what would be considered a blowout. Few coaches would dare do that now with their best players, for fear that a $40-million-a-year guy turns an ankle or worse.

Consider all that, and the record just looks safer and safer.

Besides, the record, as it currently stands, is perfect.

It's 100, a perfectly round number. Think 100 in the NBA, you think of Chamberlain. Fans don't think of the highlights of that game, because they don't exist. They think of him holding up that white piece of paper with "100" scrawled on it after the game, because someone was smart enough to snap a few pictures when history was made.

"It's a record I'd hate to try to break myself," someone said after that game.

That someone was Wilt Chamberlain.

Even he wanted no part of chasing this one.

MLB talks resume Sunday; Scherzer favors playoff 'ghost win'

NEW YORK (AP)—Max Scherzer favors a radical reworking of the playoffs, one that would have the higher seed in the first round of an expanded postseason start a best-of-five series with a 1-0 lead.

Major League Baseball and locked-out players, who resume talks Sunday, both would expand the postseason from 10 teams — that's been the field since 2012, other than the 16 teams in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

The union prefers 12 and the parties appear headed toward that number, but Scherzer said players would consider 14 if clubs would agree to the "ghost win" format.

Under MLB's 14-team plan, the division winner with the best regular-season record in each league would get a bye and advance directly to the Division Series. The two other division winners would choose their opponents and be at home for an entire best-of-three round.

The division winner with the second-best record would choose its opponent from among the three lowest-seeded wild-card teams. The division winner with the third-best record would then get to pick from among the remaining two wild cards. The top wild card would face whichever team is left over after the division winners make their choices and also play all games at home.

Selections would be made on a televised show.

"We felt like competition could be eroded in that scenario, and we had specific examples of different players who spoke up that highlighted that specifically," Scherzer said after Tuesday's breakdown in labor talks.

"Continuing on from those division winners down, we didn't see the proper incentive for those other two division winners," the New York Mets pitcher added. "We didn't understand why they didn't want to take us up on a more competitive format."

The lockout was in it 94th day Saturday, four days after Commissioner Rob Manfred canceled the first two series of the regular season, which had been scheduled to start March 31. Players are expected to respond Sunday to MLB's latest offer, the last before talks ended Tuesday.

Before talks broke down, players said they could agree to a 12-team postseason subject to an overall agreement. There remains a possibility 14 teams could return to discussions, depending on tradeoffs in the end stages of negotiations.

Under the postseason plan the union has discussed verbally but is undecided whether to formally propose, the higher seed would be home for all games and need two wins to advance, while the visiting team would have to win three times.

A team with the first-round bye would be off at least five days, possibly complicating starting pitcher plans, and the fans of the lower seed in the opening round would not have any home games.

Scherzer argued for the plan during a Monday meeting with Colorado CEO Dick Monfort, and MLB told the union it is not interested. MLB does not think the "ghost game" is the preference of broadcasters and thinks the concept would not be well-received by fans.

AP

New York Mets pitcher Max Scherzer, standing, talks with other players attending a news conference Tuesday, March 1, 2022, in Jupiter, Fla.

"The 14-team format MLB originally proposed offers significant advantages to division winners and provides incentives to win at every level of the bracket," MLB spokesman Glen Caplin said Saturday. "In an effort to compromise, MLB accepted a 12-team format after the discussion of formats including a `ghost game.' MLB made clear that the `ghost game' raises serious issues and is not a viable path forward."

The "ghost win" has been used in the Korea Baseball Organization since 2015, when its playoffs expanded from four teams to five in the 10-club league. The new best-of-three wild-card round has ended in one game in five of seven seasons, with the lower seed team forcing another game in 2016 and last year, then losing the finale both times.

"Working with the economists on the union staff, we felt like we had devised a format that you would incentivize competition throughout all the season, especially for division winners," Scherzer said. "We didn't see that that solely home-field advantage was going to be the necessary piece to try to go out there and win your division."

Without the "ghost win" format, Scherzer said "a 12-team format made more sense to us."

Pitcher Andrew Miller, like Scherzer a member of the union's eight-man executive committee, said Scherzer's thoughts on the postseason carry weight within the union.

"A core goal of this negotiation is to increase competition, and there's no way we're leaving the table without something that does that," Miller said. "We've spent a lot of time debating the merits of various playoff formats and there's probably not a better guy to ask in the room than Max. But we're not going to do anything to sacrifice this competition of the season. Anything that points towards mediocrity, that's the antithesis of our game and what we're about as players"

Don't come back until baseball has been made better

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

The talks are over, at least for now. Opening day is gone, too, and now we're forced to wait to see if we get any baseball at all.

If there was any good news coming out of baseball's labor talks in Florida it was this: At least now we know who to blame.

Here's a hint: It's not anyone wearing a uniform.

No, baseball players aren't blameless in any of this, far from it. They keep wanting more when they historically have always had the best deals in all of professional sports.

But this one is mostly on the 30 miserable, conniving owners who have always cared more about squeezing every last dollar out of the game than they ever cared about the game itself.

Once again, they've stolen from baseball fans. This time they made off with opening day and at least six games out of the regular season.

Sadly, that may just be the beginning. The temperatures could easily hit 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) in Arizona by the time spring training begins, if it ever does.

For what purpose, it's hard to figure out. Yes, the players' union can be demanding and is prone to asking for far more than owners are willing to deliver.

But the issues weren't so complex they couldn't be solved with some more time at the table. And the truth is, there was nothing on that table that would tilt the playing field so badly that franchises around the country would start bleeding money.

It's almost like the owners didn't want the season to start on time — and maybe they really didn't. Outside of opening day, early season games are not generally moneymakers for owners despite Commissioner Rob Manfred's contention that missing the games would be a tragedy for baseball.

For weeks, owners refused to negotiate at all. When they finally did, it was with warnings of missed games and salaries and, finally, an ultimatum that opening day would be scratched if players didn't agree to a last and best offer.

Afterward, they cried poor, as if anyone believed them.

"The last five years have been very difficult years from a revenue perspective for the industry given the pandemic," Manfred said.

They've been difficult for baseball fans, too, though that's another story. The fact that fans are fleeing the game isn't all economic, but they've certainly grown weary of paying $75 for a mediocre seat, $25 for parking and $18 plus tip every time the beer guy comes down the aisle.

No one should feel sorry for baseball players, either, who make an average of $4 million a year to play a child's game. Indeed, the argument advanced by the union that they are bargaining for a system where all teams are competitive is simply a smokescreen for higher payrolls on smaller market clubs.

But salaries that once seemed to have no ceiling in the past have slipped a bit in the last few years — a trend players want reversed. That's largely because front offices now use analytics to figure out value and teams know that — except for a few superstars — players are pretty much exchangeable.

No reason to pay a veteran reliever $15 million a year when teams can bring in young fireballers at a fraction of the price to replace them without skipping a beat.

"The game has suffered damage for a while now. ... The game has been manipulated," union chief Tony Clark said. "The value inherent and how players are respected and viewed has changed. Players have been commoditized, monetized in a way that is really hard to explain."

What neither side seems to realize is that fans don't really care. Not about revenue sharing, not about how many players get to go to arbitration and not about whether each club has a personal chef in the clubhouse.

They just want to go to the ballpark, drink their $18 beer and see some baseball.

Unfortunately, there's nothing in the negotiations that will make that baseball any better. While the players and owners argue about economics, the game is dying a slow death because it is simply becoming unwatchable.

So here's a thought. Return to the bargaining table and figure out what to do about arbitration years and luxury taxes. Go ahead and expand the playoffs, put ads on uniforms and adopt the DH in the National League because those are done deals already anyway.

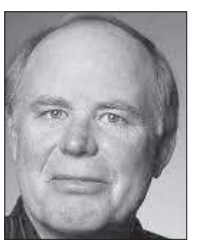
Then stay at the table. Figure out what to do about the shift. Put a limit on the number of pitchers in any game. Come up with a way to speed up the game and reintroduce the strategies — the bunt, hit-and-run and sacrifice — that once made it so interesting.

Do something for the fans for once instead of chasing the last dollar they have in their pockets.

Or, in the alternative, just don't play at all.

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at tdahlberg@ap.org or http://twitter.com/timdahlberg



Russians face more sports sanctions, but not at Paralympics

DÜSSELDORF, Germany (AP)—With the exception of the upcoming Paralympics, Russian athletes were restricted from competing in more sporting events around the world on Wednesday as owner Roman Abramovich put English Premier League club Chelsea up for sale.

Sports including biathlon and table tennis were among those to join more than a dozen other Olympic sports in excluding competitors from Russia and Belarus because of the invasion of Ukraine. The International Paralympic Committee, however, said Russians and Belarusians would be able to compete in Beijing as "neutral athletes" without national symbols.

Blanket bans have been imposed in soccer, track, basketball and hockey, among other sports, following an appeal from the International Olympic Committee to exclude Russians and Belarusians from international events.

The IOC, however, left open the possibility of allowing them to compete as neutral athletes if expulsion was not possible because of short notice.

The Winter Paralympics open Friday and numerous Russian athletes are already in the Chinese capital. The IPC has said it is working to get the Ukrainian team there, too.

"We fully respect this decision" by Paralympics leaders, IOC president Thomas Bach said Wednesday at an online briefing to explain its guidance to sports bodies.

Russia has also been banned from international gymnastics and curling events in response to its invasion of Ukraine.

AP

Members from the Russian cross-country national team try to remove a Ukrainian flag and writing reading "Glory to Ukraine" from the side of the trailer of the Russian cross-country national team, in Holmenkollen. near Oslo, Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

The International Gymnastics Federation on Friday said Russian and Belarusian athletes or officials, including judges, will not be allowed to participate in sanctioned competitions, indefinitely.

The World Curling Federation has banned Russia from its championships for the rest of the season.

Both sports had previously canceled events scheduled in Russia.

International sports organizers have scrambled to deal with the repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which began shortly after the end of the Beijing Olympics.

The Paralympics began on Friday without Russians or Belarusians after other athletes threatened to boycott rather than compete against them. Russia was also banned from upcoming World Cup soccer qualifying matches.

3-PEAT

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lead to just a candlestick, 12-11, and then a drive by MHS point guard Destiny Pangelinan moments later gave them the lead for good, 13-12.

The Lady Dolphins would eventually close the half with an 6-3 run to take a 19-15 lead at halftime.

After misfiring a lot of easy shots in the first half, center Angel Roligat came alive in the second as she single-handedly carried MHS' offense. After Tinian halved the Lady Dolphins' lead to a deuce, 21-19, Roligat scored on a layup with 2:20 to go to make it a 23-19 advantage for MHS.

Tinian replied with a lone free throw and Roligat came back with a floating 4-footer to make it 25-20 with time down to 1:38. Tinian had a chance to come closer when Famaw was fouled attempting a triple with 22 ticks left on the clock, but Tinian's hulking center made only 1 of 3 from the stripe. Roligat then put the finishing touches on MHS' back-to-back-to-back championships by making 2-for-2 from the stripe.

Roligat paced the Lady Dolphins with 15 big points, while Pangelinan added 7 points in addition to her brilliant quarterbacking of the team. The rest of the three-peating team is made up of Pauline Jorce, Kina Rangamar, Raina Avelino, Kyna Salas, J.C. Ferrer, Marielle Lopez, Abby Tamparong, and Amaya Reyes. Famaw led Tinian in the loss with 10 markers.

Wollack gave kudos to his players for not panicking despite the early deficit in the winner-take-all finals.

"The girls calmed down and we've dealt with adversity all tournament long and you grow as a team. Being down and being in a tough situation they just kicked into gear and we started to play really aggressive defense. Once we played tough D and made it really difficult for Tinian to score, then our offense became a lot easier," he said.

He also praised the team's leaders—Roligat and Pangelinan—for steering the team to the victory, especially the latter for overcoming her early shooting struggles.

"Both Angel and Destiny we have all sorts of confidence in and that's basketball sometimes shots are not falling like we want them to. But we tried to simplify things and get the ball through the hoop and make layups rather than shoot from the outside. So just get to the hoop, make easier shots, and they started falling. Once they were comfortable, they (shots) kept falling more and more," said Wollack.

The MHS head coach also thanked his lucky stars that Tinian's best player, Famaw, had foul trouble early and that led to MHS' fightback.

"We got really lucky that No. 12 got into foul trouble very, very early and we tried our best to attack her because she had four fouls very early in the first half. So, she had to play different defensively than probably she would have and we used to that to our advantage. We've won three straight and we're hoping for No. 4 next year!"

Wollack also said while other teams may have two coaches on their bench, MHS had the privilege of having four and he extended his thanks to Preston Basa, Jun Del Rosario, and Gabrielle Race for helping him successfully navigate the short three-day tournament.

And speaking of the tournament that was shortened due to COVID-19, Wollack said downsizing the league to the shorter tourney format was the best thing to do under the circumstances.

"It's great. You saw how competitive everyone was and how much the crowd was really into it. Although we didn't have a regular season it's still a great atmosphere. I'm so proud of everyone and all the schools. Even though we didn't play a regular season the girls were committed and coming to practice every single day of the week and we're working on our Team Dolphin basketball."

Results of the 2021-2022 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball Championships will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

MHS 27 – Roligat 15, Pangelinan 7, Mendoza 3, Lopez 2

Tinian 21 – Famaw 20, Carreon 6, Cing 2, Dela Cruz 1.

Scoring by halves: 19-13, 27-21.

NEW

From Page 20

Besides the opportunity to play in the collegiate ranks, NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka, in her message at the groundbreaking ceremony, took note of NMI players' chance to travel, compete, and represent the islands in international tournaments—something that she didn't imagine happening when they started the association 17 years ago with only a little over 100 players joining the group.

"I'm very proud of what we have accomplished. I never thought we would have two beautiful pitches and now two more on the way. But, it's not just the pitch, but the opportunities for our children, for the community at large. Our players get to travel and compete, learn life skills, be healthy, and build relationship through the NMIFA program and the facilities we have," Izuka said.

The NMIFA vice president added that the availability of facilities has allowed the association to continue growing the program. From 100 plus (youth players only), the NMIFA has over 1,600 players from all age groups and has also strengthened its interscholastic program through the help of the CNMI Public School System.

NMIFA grateful to supporters

Meanwhile, Tan looked back briefly at the opening of the NMISTC in July 2018 and how it sustained damage less than four months later when Yutu hammered the NMI.

"I came out one morning to see the damage to the facility. It's was tough, but I know we will rebuild and get the facility back for our community. It was a rough journey as Soudelor came and then COVID-19 pandemic, but with teamwork and the support of everyone in the community, we are able to move forward and now we hope to see you all back for the ribbon cutting of the new pitches in August," the NMIFA president said.

Tan thanked the Asian Football Confederation for providing assistance to rebuild the secondary pitch, while NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta acknowledged Torres, the Department of Public Lands, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for the partnership for the expansion project. The two NMIFA officials also thanked private businesses that have been supporting their program as well as the eight clubs, Japan Football Association, Chelsea Soccer FC Hong Kong, and parents/guardians of players.

Tan said that with the two additional pitches on the way, he hopes to see more parents play, too as he wishes to have opportunities and programs for soccer moms and dads.

"If we have more parents playing, I am sure they will also bring and encourage their kids to play and we will continue to see the growth of the program," said Tan before taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony.

Last Saturday's event coincided with the opening of the NMIFA Spring Youth League where nearly 1,000 children are participating. NMIFA saw a 47% increase in its youth league participants despite of the pandemic, while the women's and men's program had 30% and 12% growth, respectively.

GAME

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Bungabong tried to rally Vizion Insurance at the start of the third, combining for 15 in the third quarter. However, The Game continued to have the driver's seat and led, 63-43, heading into the fourth and final quarter.

The Game lowered its guard somewhat in the payoff period, allowing John Capuyon and Ace Agustin to explode for 10 and 8 points, respectively, in the final 10 minutes of action. Despite the disinterest in defense though, The Game still managed to win its second game in as many matches with the 14-point win.

Mintac paced everyone with 22 points, while center Jack Lizama and Sagun added 15 and 14 markers, respectively. Pastrana and Capuyon paced Vizion Insurance in the loss with 20 and 12 points, respectively.

In the first game, Paradise Realty survived a league-high 44 points from Joseph Torres to win 76-72. The winning team was led by come-backing Dave Sablan with 17 points.

HBR International, meanwhile, leaned on a balanced attack to clobber IT&E, 72-56. Jerome Reyes and Donald Romo shared scoring honors for the former with 13 points.

First Game

Paradise Realty 76 – D. Sablan 17, Airson 12, Ju. Camacho 9, G. Camacho 9, Joyner 8, J. Sablan 4, Teregeyo 4, Basa 4, Ja. Camacho 3, Castro 3.

670 Gravity 72 – Torres 44, Bernardo 10, Tabora 5, Gariguez 4, Garido 3, Solis 2, Castillo 2, Macaraig 2.

Second Game

HBR International 72 – Reyes 13, Romo 13, Pua 10, Galang 9, Hipolito 7, Rutab 6, Boringat 5, Sado 3, Antonio 2, Rabauliman 2, Gonzales 2.

IT&E 56 – Reign 18, Singca 11, Divinigracia 9, Abelardo 7, Madreo 5, Pamintuan 3, Torres 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-11, 36-22, 57-36, 72-56.

Third Game

The Game 85 – Mintac 22, Lizama 15, Sagun 14, Mendiola 9, Deleon Guerrero 7, Sablan 6, Shamburger 4, Cabaltica 4, Dayao 3, Rangamar 1.

Vizion Insurance 71 – Pastrana 20, Capuyon 12, Bungabong 10, Agustin 8, Regaton 6, Ruedo 5, Santos 4, Doseo 4, Jumaquio 1, Ramos 1.

Scoring by quarters: 22-16, 44-23, 63-43, 85-71.

LeBron James scores 56 points to help Lakers beat Warriors

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New pitches, more opportunities for soccer players

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fifth left, and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, fourth left, lead the groundbreaking ceremony for the NMI Soccer Training Center's expansion project last Saturday in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two additional pitches will soon rise at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville to further support the continued growth of the sport on the islands.

The pitches are part of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's NMISTC expansion project that broke ground last Saturday afternoon. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres joined NMIFA president Jerry Tan, the NMIFA Executive Committee, other NMIFA officials, and the sport's stakeholders in the groundbreaking ceremony.

With the extension, the facility will have two main pitches and two secondary fields and Torres, in his remarks at the ceremony, believes this development will create more opportunities to the NMI, especially the islands' players.

"I learned we have kids who are part of NMIFA program that are now playing and studying in college. They will never have that opportunity without the NMIFA program and this facility. Thank you NMIFA, thank you coaches, volunteers, and parents," said Torres.

Since 2005, there are more than 20 NMIFA players that were able to play in the collegiate level or are still playing and many of them have also earned athletic scholarships. For the 2022 season alone, five have already committed to play for universities in the U.S. mainland.

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3-peat for Lady Dolphins in HS hoops

MARK RABAGO

Marianas High School players and coaches pose for a group photo with their medals and perpetual plaque after topping the 2021-2022 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball Championships last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium. Also in photo are Public School System Athletic Program director Nick Gross, PSS Instructional Technology & Distance Education director Bobby Cruz, and Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marianas High School completed a rare three-peat after topping the 2021-2022 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball Championships.

The Lady Dolphins of head coach Dan Wollack bucked a slow start to upend Tinian, 27-21, at the jampack and sweltering hot MHS Gymnasium last Saturday.

MHS actually was down early as Lana Famaw dominated the inside and gave Tinian a 12-8 lead. The Tinian center, however, was waylaid by early foul trouble and had to sit down and that's when the Lady Dolphins made their move. A triple by Shaina Mendoza whittled down Tinian's

See 3-PEAT on **Page 19**

MARK RABAGO

Marianas High School's Kina Rangamar drives baseline against Tinian's Lana Famaw during the finals of the 2021-2022 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball Championships last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Game stays perfect after beating Vizion Insurance

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Game players pose for a group photo before their game against Vizion Insurance in the open divion of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Thursday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Game remained perfect in the open division after routing Vizion Inusrance, 85-71, in the third game of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Thursday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Jeff Sagun started the game with guns ablaze, firing 6 points in the opening 10 minutes to help The Game open with a 22-16 spread after the first quarter.

High-flying Mac Mintac took over from where Sagun left off and poured in 12 points in the second half, while Joe Sablan tripled thrice as The Game padded its lead, 44-23, at the halftime break.

Rodel Pastrana and Jello

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